

SCAN



INSIDE **MERRY CHRISTMAS** FROM THE STARS

MATCH

Saturday Dec 26 1981 30p

**PAUL
MARINER**

'My secret torment'

ALAN BALL

'How I broke the transfer record'

IN COLOUR

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CHRISTMAS is here and we hope this special festive issue of Match Weekly will help make it one of the most enjoyable you've ever had.

MERRY MATCH XMAS!

It's an issue packed with colour posters, puzzles and super prizes — as well as lots of bang up-to-date news and all your usual favourites.

There's a giant

soccerword on page 29 to keep you busy over the Christmas.

In fact, about all that is missing from this issue is the usual Match Facts results service, which we have had to leave out due to the fact that the issue was printed early because of the Christmas holidays.

But the good news is that we will be printing Match Weekly as normal next week — when other weekly soccer magazines will not be available — and your Match Facts will be brought right up to date.

That New Year issue will be on sale around December 30.

Meanwhile, from everyone here at Match Weekly... we wish you good reading and a very merry Christmas.

Melvyn Bagnall

Editor



Santa

BIG Scottish stopper Willie Young reflected on the Highbury bust-up which brought his Arsenal career to a stormy end and declared: "I felt I was being taken for granted."

Willie, whose long-winded transfer to Nottingham Forest finally went through earlier this month added:

"I fell out with Arsenal manager Terry Neill during the close season.

"There were a number of reasons but the major problem was a new contract — or rather the lack of one.

"The club refused to give me a wage increase.

"Terry told me to get out and play the game. That's what I did and, to my mind, I was playing the best football of my career."

So, in the wake of his experience at Highbury, it's hardly surprising that Willie is relishing the prospect of starting a new career with another club.

And Brian Clough, the Forest manager often labelled 'the scrooge of football', has taken on a new role in Willie's eyes — that of Father Christmas!

Willie admits that the Forest boss has given him the best

Christmas present he could have wished for.

"He makes you feel wanted, which is nice considering what's happened to me this season.

"I need the new stimulus and motivation that only a move to a different club can bring. I felt I was taking Arsenal for granted, too."

Before the Gunners' League Cup tie with Sheffield United, an attempt was made to heal the rift between the club and their unsettled star.

Before the game, Willie was offered a new pay deal, but he asked for time to consider it.

Money

Afterwards, he rejected the offer... and Terry Neill labelled Willie a destructive influence at the club.

"I didn't think the offer was good enough but, by that time, the money wasn't that important anyway," says Willie.

"It was a matter of principle. They started offering me things only when they knew I was unsettled.

"The manager said we had virtually reached agreement on the contract but that wasn't how I read the situation.

"I was dropped — but only for political reasons — and I knew then that I wouldn't have long to

match
weekly

Vol. 3 No. 16

Editorial and Advertising:
Stirling House, Bretton,
Peterborough PE3 8DJ.
Telephone: 0733-260333.
Publicity, Circulation and Back
Issue Depts: Bretton Court,
Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DZ.
Telephone: 0733-264666.
Published by EMAP National
Publications Ltd.
Printed by East Midland Litho
Printers, Oundle Road,
Peterborough.
© 1982 EMAP National
Publications Ltd.

Editor: Melvyn Bagnall
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Advertising: Kieran Hamill
Publicity: Chris Llewellyn

Subscriptions: Match Weekly
Subscription Dept., Competition House,
Farndon Road, Market Harborough, Leics.
Subscription rates: Inland £23, Overseas
— surface mail £24, air mail £29.10
(anywhere in Europe).
● If you have difficulty obtaining the
magazine please contact our Circulation
Dept.

WILLIE YOUNG gets his Christmas wish from . . . Clough!

New Forest signing Willie Young talks to Match Weekly about his Arsenal career which turned sour and the move that has given him a new lease of life at the age of 30.

Right: Brian Clough . . . snapped up Willie Young for £150,000.



‘Brian makes you feel wanted’

wait for a move.

“There was no point them paying me first team wages to play in the reserves.”

But Willie did have a long wait. Although Brian Clough declared his interest early on, there was plenty of argy-bargy before the clubs agreed on a fee of £150,000, which Willie considers a bargain.

“Within ten minutes of meeting Clough and Taylor we had agreed all my personal details.

“They were so enthusiastic about Forest’s future and my role in the side. I’ve got to win the ball in the air at the back, organise the younger players and create havoc in the opposing penalty area.”

Although Clough and Taylor are renowned for cutting players down to size, the giant Scot sees no problem.

“I’ve got tremendous respect for them — they are the best managerial partnership in the game — and on that basis we’ll get on famously.

“Half a dozen clubs are in with a chance of the Championship and that includes Forest.”

And, according to 30-year-old

Willie, it also includes Arsenal.

“Their problem earlier on was only a lack of confidence.

“They’ve strung a few good results together lately and that’s more like the old Arsenal.

“They won’t have any problems finishing in the first six.

“I’ll always be grateful to Arsenal. They are a good club and give you a good grounding in discipline.

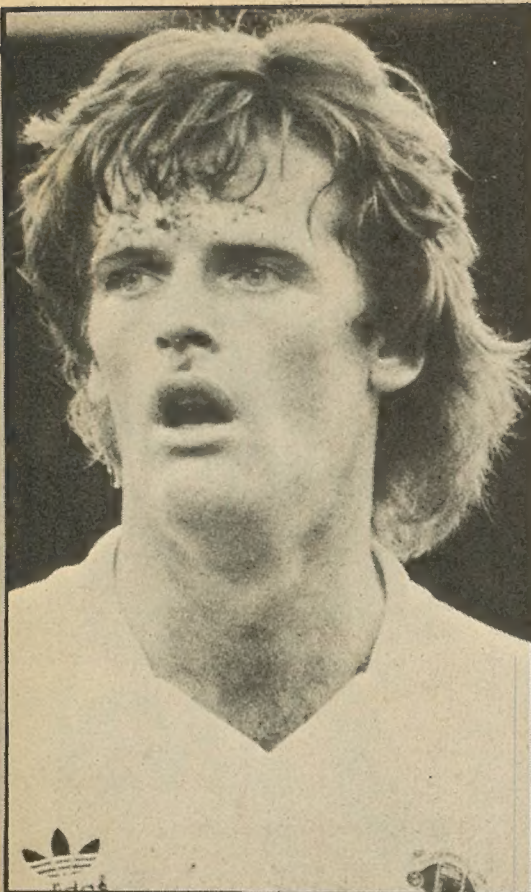
“Obviously I was sad to say cheerio to my friends, but that’s why I wanted to move — to try something new.”

And the last word on Terry Neill? “I’ve had some good times with Terry over the last six years and it’s only in the last few months that it’s gone wrong.

“But we are still speaking. It’s good that we can have a bust-up and remain friends.”

Right: Kenny Burns (now with Leeds) — he’s the man Willie’s been brought in to replace at Forest.





McQueen may miss out again

MANCHESTER United centre half Gordon McQueen could miss out on the World Cup Finals for the second successive time.

The lanky defender had to watch Scotland's 1978 debacle from the stands because of knee ligament trouble.

At that time, Scotland manager Ally McLeod rated him as the "best centre half in Europe."

Four years on, Gordon seems likely to miss out again.

He has not been included in manager Jock Stein's recent squads, partly because of injury, but now he's back in the United side earning accolades from manager Ron Atkinson.

"When Gordon plays as he did in the 2-0 win over Brighton, he's the best centre half in the business," says Ron.

Gordon still hopes to make a late bid for Spain. "Mr Stein has said it is up to the

players to impress him by playing well at club level, and I hope I can just keep the present squad members on their toes."

Aberdeen pair Alex McLeish and Willie Miller, Leeds skipper Kenny Burns and Liverpool's Alan Hansen are the present favourites to make the trip to Spain.

"I just know that if I'm playing well, Jock Stein will get to hear about it," added Gordon.

SALUTE STUART

THAT familiar Stuart Pearson victory salute was in evidence at Upton Park recently, despite West Ham losing at home in a League match for the first time since the first game of last season.

Injury-plagued Stuart returned for the first time this season to partner David Cross and snatched a late goal for the Hammers.

But it wasn't enough to prevent revitalised Arsenal from claiming the points by virtue of first half goals from new defender Chris Whyte and veteran John Hollins.

Match Chat

Compiled by Melvyn Beck

Top that, comrade!

TOTTENHAM forward Tony Galvin and Lincoln midfielder Phil Neale are kindred spirits — they both hold a university degree in Russian.

Phil is the longest-serving footballing-cricketer at top level in the game — Lincoln in the winter and Worcestershire in the summer.

He's been in action with both since 1975.

TRANMERE TROUPER

TRANMERE's Ray Mathias deserves a special medal to reward his 17 years' service at Prenton Park.

He has emerged from the same junior team as Manchester United's Steve Coppell and Bradford City player-manager Roy McFarland to become the Fourth Division's longest serving current player.

Cruyff's back with a goal

FORMER Holland skipper Johan Cruyff (right) celebrated his return to Dutch football with a goal in Ajax's 4-1 win over Haarlem.

It's eight years since Johan was part of the successful Ajax side that collected a hat-trick of European Cup successes.

Since then the gifted midfield player has been playing in America and Spain.



PRICELESS RESERVES

A CLUB with championship ambitions needs plenty of strength in depth.

Well, Ipswich showed in their 1-0 win at Middlesbrough that they have plenty of potential in the wings.

They fielded no fewer than nine players who cost nothing due to the absence of internationals like Eric Gates, Alan Brazil, Paul Mariner, Kevin O'Callaghan and Frans Thijssen.

The crucial goal came from South African striker Mich D'Avray who, when Dutchmen Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen are both available, is unable to play because of the rules regarding foreign players.

A club is allowed to field only two foreign players, so Mich looks like facing a return to the reserves.



LOOKING for those last-minute stocking fillers? The Match Weekly All-Star Soccer Special for 1982 makes the perfect present for football fans of all ages.

The 132-page special is packed with action colour photos, features and competitions, plus articles from Match Weekly columnists Kevin Keegan, Glenn Hoddle, Graeme Souness, Paul Mariner and Steve Coppell.

The special represents great value-for-money at only £1.95 and is widely available NOW at most newsagents.

What do the stars want for Christmas? Match Weekly has been asking top players from up and down the country and this is what they had to say . . .

'Consistency my wish'

ALLAN EVANS (Aston Villa)

MY wish for Christmas is for Aston Villa to recover some of the consistency we showed last season when winning the First Division.

Although I feel we are in a false position, our League form in general has been poor in comparison to last season.

Having drawn quite a few matches, we are in a lower position than we might have been but for the new points structure.

We've played quite well in the European and League Cup ties and it's up to us to produce some of that form in the League if we are to get back among the challengers.

From a personal point of view, I believe I'm showing far more consistency now than at any other stage of my career, and that is essential for a central defender.

Merry Christmas everyone.



'Let's lift the gloom'

JOHN HOLLINS (Arsenal)

I'D like to see the players lift the gloom from our game by putting more in and taking out less.

The elation of the three World Cup qualifications has died down and once again everything is doom, despondency and crisis.

It's pie in the sky, but I'd like to see players put a freeze on themselves and not demand so much from the clubs whether it be money or a move.

We should be helping to make the game more secure and leave it in a healthy state for the youngsters who take over from us.

From a personal point of view I just want to continue playing the same as I have done this season.

I've had two enjoyable years at Highbury and I'm looking forward to a few more yet! Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



'The title will do me!'

ERIC GATES (Ipswich)

IF I had a Christmas wish then it would be for Ipswich to win the League Championship.

And I think we are capable of doing that even though we are not playing as well as we can.

I think that the most surprising thing to us is that we are still so close to the top of the table without producing last season's form.

If we can hit the form we showed last season then the League is there for the taking.

When Brighton won at Southampton recently to deny the 'Saints' going top, Paul Mariner made the point that teams were giving it too on a plate and results are certainly going in our favour.

So I'm looking for plenty of points over the holiday period in the hope of creating a gap at the top.

From my own point of view, I would love to win back my place in England squad for the World Cup.

I am out of favour at the moment, so all I can do is to try and play well and hope that Ipswich stay in the title race.

If Ipswich are doing well than the lads in the team will keep getting noticed.

A happy Christmas to all Match readers.



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THE GOALPOST Dept M.W.

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'Triumphant trio - my wish'

ALAN CURTIS
(Swansea)

WALES have blown their World Cup chances, but it would be tremendous to see our three representatives — England, Scotland and Northern Ireland — do well in Spain in next summer.

It would provide the game with a much needed boost and you can be sure that the Welsh boys will be wishing the trio all the best in Spain.

From a club point of view Swansea will be hoping to carry on their great start to their first season in Division One.



Take down the fences!

RAY WILKINS (Man. Utd)

LET'S bring the fences down from around our pitches.

That's my Christmas wish. I'd love to see an end of hooliganism on the terraces so that we can get back to a civilised situation where people don't have to be fenced in.

There's so much for me to look forward to in the New Year with Manchester United top of the First Division and chasing for the title and

England booked for a World Cup Finals appearance in Spain.

It's going to be an exciting summer for the 22 members of the England squad and I'll be playing as hard as ever to make sure that I get picked for the finals.

I'm playing my best football since I joined United and I'm hoping that I can end the season with a Championship medal.

the stars!

'Come back fans'

BRENDON BATSON
(West Brom)

I'D like to see the crowds come back to football, because without the fans everyone's struggling.

I think the main reason crowds aren't as big as they were is that there's not the money about and people are picking and choosing their matches more carefully.

I don't think it's in the hands of the players because we are just paid to play football, but obviously we try as hard as we can to entertain.

From a personal point of view my Christmas wish would be to pick up an FA Cup winners medal this season.

And of course I'd love to break into the England squad with Spain on the horizon.

I've got three England 'B' caps under my belt and while the people already in the squad are not going to be shifted easily, nothing's impossible.

That just leaves me to wish all Match readers a very merry Christmas from myself and my family.



THAT was the Christmas that was. Match takes you on a sleigh-ride down memory lane with a brief look at some of the events which made headlines in Christmas weeks gone by . . .

Chivers is the toast of Spurs

Dec. 30, 1972

EIGHT years ago this week England striker Martin Chivers was the toast of Tottenham.

It was his extra-time goal against Wolves that took Spurs through to the League Cup Final.

Spurs, having won 2-1 at Molineux in the first leg, were forced into extra time when John Richards and a Terry Naylor own goal made the tie 3-3 on aggregate.

But big Martin settled the issue three minutes from the end of extra time to send Tottenham into a final clash with Norwich that they were to win 1-0.

It was Tottenham's seventh major final appearance



since Billy Nicholson took over as manager in 1958.

Ironically, on the day of Tottenham's success, they parted company with Graeme Souness who moved to Middlesbrough for £30,000.

Other significant happenings during this week over the past few years:

Dec. 26, 1977 — Manchester United win 6-2 at Everton and Colin Bell returns to the Manchester City side after two years' absence.

Dec. 27, 1972 — Manchester United manager Tommy Docherty signs George Graham from Arsenal for £120,000, having once bought him for £6,000 when he was manager of Chelsea. 1976 — George Armstrong walks out on Arsenal because they refuse to grant him a transfer, but he returns within two days. 1978 — Hamburg's Kevin Keegan is elected European 'Footballer of the Year'.

Dec. 28, 1972 — Full-back Alex Forsyth joins Manchester United from Partick for £100,000. 1977 — Nottingham Forest go five points clear at the top of Division One. Says manager Brian Clough: "The last time Nottingham were five ahead of anybody was in a cricket match."

Dec. 29, 1977 — Goalkeeper Mervyn Day is dropped by West Ham for the first time in four and a half years, and Chelsea's Tommy Langley scores his first hat-trick in the 5-4 defeat of Birmingham. 1979 — Liverpool complete a memorable December by collecting maximum points from all their League matches, the latest win being 2-0 at West Brom.

Dec. 30, 1979 — Ian Porterfield takes over as manager of Rotherham and strikers Colin Morris and Derek Spence change clubs, joining Blackpool and Southend respectively.

Left: England skipper Kevin Keegan — elected European Footballer of the Year three years ago this week.



No grim faces at Grimsby

There should be no cheerful faces at Grimsby as the Mariners struggle at the wrong end of Division Two. But centre back Kevin Moore remains optimistic . . .

Above: Grimsby's Kevin Moore — hoping for a repeat of last season.

Right: The sponsor's name — Findus — emblazoned on the front of Joe Waters' Grimsby shirt suggests success on a plate!

However, it's been anything but easy for the Second Division side this season, especially with Joe out of the side through injury.

Even so, defender Kevin Moore remains optimistic that the New Year will bring a change of fortune.



THE Mariners of Grimsby appear to have lost their way.

The promotion-chasing boat which almost took them into the First Division last season is currently floundering on the rocks near the foot of the table.

The loss of skipper Joe Waters through a cartilage operation has been a significant factor in the team's downward slide after a promising start, but there is no air of despondency in the Grimsby camp.

As young defender Kevin Moore puts it: "We were in a similar sort of position at this time last year yet still finished seventh.

Vultures

"We are hoping, if not expecting, that history will repeat itself."

Certainly the facts underline Kevin's optimism.

Grimsby won only two of their first 16 games last season and the vultures were hovering over the Cleethorpes coastline waiting for the inevitable.

But Grimsby suddenly came alive. George Kerr's side duly found a successful blend that torpedoed them up the table where they spent the final months of the season in the heat of a promotion battle.

"After such a poor start, everybody expected us to go straight back down to the

Third Division, but we proved them wrong," adds Kevin, whose brother, David, is also in the Mariners' senior squad.

Grimsby eventually finished seventh, but they produced enough to suggest they would be in the forefront of Second Division affairs this time.

But, after winning three of their first four matches, they went through a disastrous spell of only one win in 12 games to leave them staring relegation straight in the face.

"We've had a few injuries and we have particularly missed skipper Joe Waters who creates a lot in midfield, but it would be too easy to use that as an excuse," says Kevin.

"We've been struggling for goals and we have been giving them away as well. Last season we didn't score a lot of goals but we were pretty solid at the back.

"And with such a depressing run of results confidence also suffers, although the side is always battling.

"I'm hoping we can embark on the kind of run we had last season to pull ourselves away from the bottom of the table.

"In my own mind, I'm sure we are too good to go down, but you have got to prove that on the field.

"There have been signs recently that we are getting our game together and I'm hoping that we are going to get a repeat of last season. It was around Christmas that we started getting a few results."

Meet the stars on a PGL Soccer Holiday.



Trevor Brooking



Steve Williams



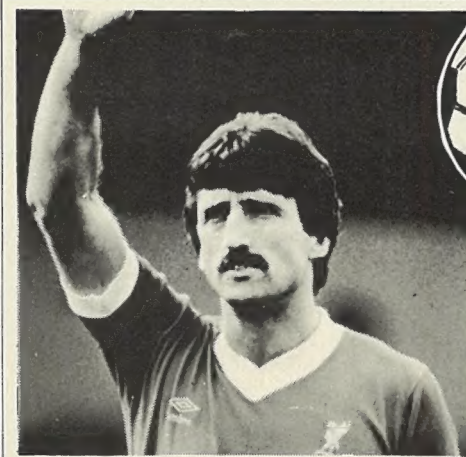
Graeme Souness



Alan Brazil



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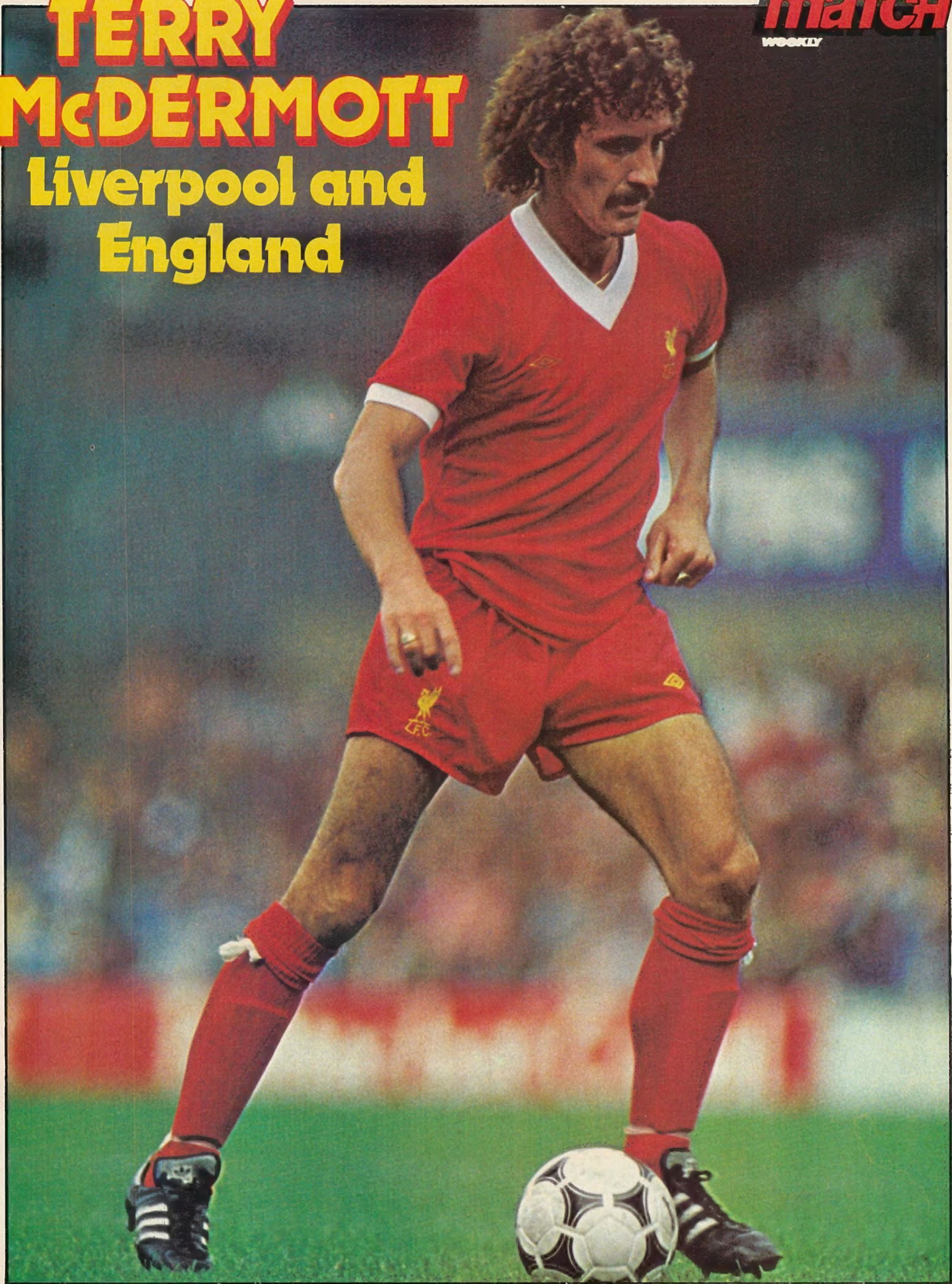
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TERRY McDERMOTT

Liverpool and
England

match
WEEKLY



JOE CORRIGAN

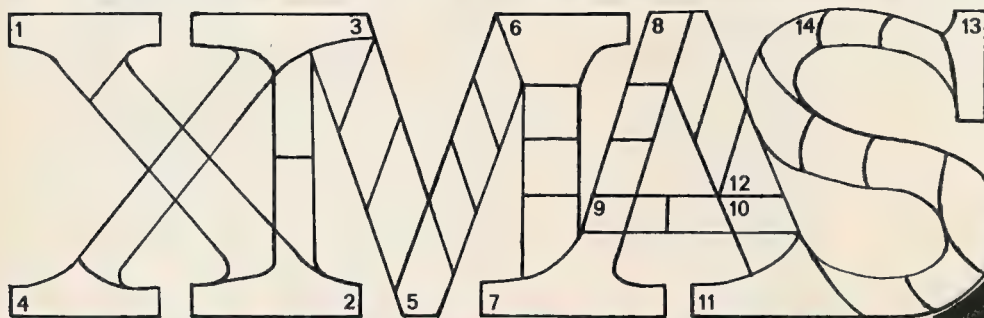
MAN CITY and ENGLAND

FULL NAME: Joseph Thomas Corrigan.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Manchester, November 18, 1948
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 6ft 4½ins/14st 7lbs
MARRIED: Yes, to Val
CHILDREN: Sara (10), Emma (8), Andrew (4)
CAR: Volvo 264
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: Apprentice engineer
CLUB NICKNAME: 'Big Joe'
WORST EVER INJURY: Broken jaw in 1974
FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER AND WHY: Trevor Brooking because of his outstanding skill and being a gentleman.
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: None
FAVOURITE FOREIGN PLAYER AND WHY: Pele — he had everything
BEST ALL-TIME BRITISH TEAM: England's 1966 World Cup winning team — Banks, Cohen, Wilson, Stiles, Charlton J., Moore, Ball, Hunt, Charlton R., Hurst, Peters
ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL XI: The 1970 Brazilian World Cup winning team with England's Gordon Banks in goal; Banks, Carlos Alberto, Brito, Wilson Piazza, Everaldo, Clodoaldo, Gerson, Jairzinho, Tostao, Pele, Rivelino.
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Anfield
FAVOURITE FOREIGN STADIUM AT WHICH YOU HAVE PLAYED: Barcelona
BEST GOAL SCORED: A penalty against Southampton in a Scottish tournament.
BEST GOAL SEEN SCORED: Terry McDermott for Liverpool against Everton in the 1976-77 FA Cup semi-final
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Kevin Keegan
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Last season's FA Cup Final clashes with Tottenham
OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Meeting the Queen at Hampden Park when I represented the F.A.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Tottenham in last season's FA Cup Final.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf, squash and karate.
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Reading and driving
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoking and bad manners
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Any documentaries.
TV SHOWS YOU ALWAYS SWITCH OFF: Crossroads, Coronation Street and Emmerdale Farm.
FAVOURITE READING: Anything
FAVOURITE POP STAR: None in particular
FAVOURITE FOOD: Dover sole
FAVOURITE DRINK: Lager
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: America
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Steve McQueen and Glenda Jackson.
BEST FILM SEEN IN PAST YEAR: The Jazz Singer.
BEST FRIEND: Manchester City physiotherapist Roy Bailey.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON MY CAREER: My family.
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FOOTBALL: People who try to change it.
SUPERSTITIONS: Too many to mention
PRE-MATCH MEAL: None.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Seven full England caps, nine England 'B' caps, three Under-21 caps and one Under-23 cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To help others be happy.
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To help Manchester City win more trophies.
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: No plans at present.
PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: City's Tommy Caton.
WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET: The Pope
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Work hard and listen to people who know what football is really all about

Joe Corrigan



BE A WINNER WITH MATCH • BE A WINNER WITH MATCH



XMAS QUIZWORD

HERE'S a Christmas crossword with a difference.

Solve the clues and put the answers in the XMAS outlines so that they read from the first number indicated to the second — with one letter in a space. For example 8-11 is a seven lettered word that starts in space eight and runs down to 11. Here are the clues.

- 1-2. Hughton has the right name to start this season!
- 3-4. 'N(ew) Year' (anagram) — a Dundee United and Scotland star.
- 2-3. Some instant Bowles.
- 5-3. The holly and the ivy provide Plymouth with colour.
- 5-6. Eric's attendances?
- 6-7. Soccer club seen on the seventh day of Christmas!

- 7-8. Rearrange five consecutive letters of 'Christmas' to find what a soccer player is seen in.
- 9-10. It sounds like Don's question!
- 8-11. Some sweets for Christmas by courtesy of Everton?
- 12-13. Is this club full of Christmas trees?
- 14-11. Some decorations for supporters.

YOUR
CHRISTMAS
QUIZ & PUZZLE
PAGE

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

TEST your soccer knowledge with this quick quiz:

- 1 Name the top scorer in the Second Division last season.
- 2 They play at Fratton Park.
- 3 Name the young player who is Ipswich Town's record signing?
- 4 Which manager did current Newcastle boss Arthur Cox take over from?
- 5 What is the nickname of Third Division Plymouth?

STOCKING FILLER

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

HOW fast can you fill this Christmas stocking?

All you've got to do is take a look at the soccer names and words below and fit them in their correct places in the stocking.

To help you on your way, here's a clue. Start with Boro in the four spaces across the top of the stocking.

Here are the words you've got to put in the grid:

ALAN ARM BEAT BOB BORO DEAN DELL
DINO ERIC EYE ILEY LAW LEAD LIMA
LUTON NEW OWEN PERU RAMS ROBB
SUB TALL TOSS.



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SOLUTIONS

SPOT THE SANTA: (a) Liam Brady (Juventus); (b) Rami Moses (Man. Utd.); (c) Eddie Gray (Leeds).
PLAYER JUMBLE: Justin Fashanu (Nottingham Forest).

CHRISTMAS QUIZWORD: 1-2. Christmas; 3-4. Narey; 2-3. (in)stant; 5-3. green; 5-6. Gales; 6-7. Swans; 7-8. shirt; 9-10. Howe; 8-11. Toffees; 12-13. Forest; 14-11. roses.
CHRISTMAS QUIZ: 1. David Cross, West Ham (22); 2. Portsmouth; 3. Kevin O'Callaghan (£250,000); 4. Bill McGarry; 5. The Pilgrims.



BE A WINNER WITH MATCH • BE A WINNER WITH MATCH

WIN A CASSETTE PLAYER

WIN an extra special present this Christmas — a super mini stereo cassette player.

We're giving away a fantastic super Tensai stereo system to the winner of our popular 'Spot the Difference' competition.

The systems are worth more than £200 and include twin speakers, amplifier, tuner and cassette deck.

The first correct entry pulled out of our postbag will win the super Christmas prize, while we'll be giving away TWENTY-FIVE Match Weekly badges to the runners-up.

All you have to do is take a careful look at the two Christmas drawings.

They may look similar but there are ten deliberate differences on one of the drawings.

Find them — if you can — and mark them on cartoon B, fill in your name and address on the coupon and send it off to us.

Address your entries to: Stereo Competition, Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough, PE2 0UF.

Entries must reach us by January 8 and the results will appear in our January 23 issue. Good luck!

PLAYER JUMBLE

CAN you sort out the following jumbled up letters to discover the name of a famous player?

AFSUSAIUNHTJN



SPOT THE SANTA

CAN you name the famous stars hiding behind the Father Christmas beards?



NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

Stratton on Saturday

UNITED'S CRACKER



Pictured above is my special guest opponent this week — Match reader Stephen Kiernan (13), of Solihull, West Midlands.

WIN £5

HERE are Paul Stratton's selected matches for this Saturday, together with those of his special guest opponent.

There's a space for you to fill in your forecasts and a column for the actual result.

Award yourself two points for every score you get right and one point if you get the result right (i.e. home win, away win, draw), but the scoreline wrong.

Carry your points total forward each week.

ASK any professional footballer what he wants for Christmas and his answer will almost certainly be: "maximum points".

For some the wish will come true; for others the New Year won't come soon enough.

Six points from the games on Saturday and the Monday following could make all the difference, whether it's in the race for honours or the battle against relegation.

So what's it to be for your favourite team — a Happy Christmas or one that's best forgotten?

Manchester United's clash with Everton at Old Trafford promises to be a cracker and looks sure to pull in the biggest crowd of the day.

And most of those fans should return to family celebrations in happy mood after witnessing a United victory that will keep the pressure on at the top of the League.

Up against his former club for the first time since his move to United, full-back John Gidman is sure to make his presence felt.

Two days later, of course, United manager Ron Atkinson takes his United side to his former club West Brom — a match which also signals a return 'home' for United midfielders Bryan Robson and Remi Moses.

Red-hot

And the red-hot atmosphere that game promises ought to be enough to melt the snow all over the Midlands!

But back to Saturday and the clash between Swansea and West Ham at Vetch Field.

Both teams have impressed since coming up from Division Two last season, but I'm going for a home win which should prompt a few Christmas carols in the Welsh valleys!

I've predicted scorelines for ten of Saturday's matches from up and down the country and the challenge is beat me if you can.

My special guest opponent this week is Match reader Stephen Kiernan, of Solihull, and you can see his predictions alongside mine in the special panel.

Points are awarded according to how accurate the forecasts are and if Stephen manages to score more points than me he wins an extra Christmas present of £5!

If you would like the chance to see your predictions in print write in, enclosing your name, age, address, home telephone number and a black and white photograph of yourself.

Write to: Stratton on Saturday, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8DJ.

BEAT PAUL'S PREDICTIONS

MATCH	MY FORECAST	GUEST'S FORECAST	YOUR FORECAST	RESULT
Man. Utd v Everton	3-1	3-2		
Swansea v West Ham	2-1	1-2		
Wolves v Forest	0-2	1-1		
Grimsby v Rother'm	2-0	0-0		
Leicester v Newcastle	1-0	1-0		
Brentford v Wimbledon	3-0	2-0		
Carlisle v Preston	4-1	2-0		
Bournemouth v Colchester	1-1	0-1		
Aldershot v Northampton	3-1	2-1		
Celtic v Hibernian	2-0	3-1		

WHO WON THIS WEEK?

POINTS SCORED

PAUL _____

YOURSELF _____

Aggregate scores carried forward to next week

PAUL _____

YOURSELF _____

Saturday, Dec. 26

DIVISION ONE

Arsenal v Brighton
Aston Villa v Soton
Coventry v WBA
Ipswich v Spurs
Leeds v Birmingham
Liverpool v Man. City
Man. Utd v Everton
Notts Co. v Middlesbro'
Sunderland v Stoke
Swansea v West Ham
Wolves v Nottm F

DIVISION TWO

Blackburn v Oldham
Charlton v Norwich
C. Palace v Watford
Derby v Barnsley
Grimsby v Rother'm
Leicester v Newcastle
Luton v Cambridge
Orient v Cardiff
QPR v Chelsea
Sheff. W v Shrewsbury
Wrexham v Bolton

DIVISION THREE

Brentford v Wimbledon
Bristol C. v Exeter

FIXTURES

Carlisle v Preston
Chesterfield v Doncaster
Fulham v Gillingham
Lincoln v Burnley
Newport v Chester
Oxford v Reading
Plymouth v Swindon
Portsmouth v Bristol R
Southend v Millwall
Walsall v Huddersfield

DIVISION FOUR

Bournemouth v Colchester
Aldershot v Northampton
Blackpool v Tranmere
Bury v Sheff. U
Crewe v Wigan
Darlington v Hull
Halifax v Bradford
Mansfield v York
Peterboro v Torquay
Port Vale v Hereford
Rochdale v Scunthorpe
Stockport v Hartlepool

SCOTTISH

PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic v Hibernian
Dundee v Aberdeen
Morton v Rangers
Partick v Airdrie
St Mirren v Dundee U

FIRST DIVISION

Dumbarton v Ayr
E. Stirling v Hamilton
Hearts v Falkirk
Kilmarnock v Clydebank
Motherwell v St Johnstone
Q. of South v Dunfermline
Raith v Queens Park

SECOND DIVISION

Albion v E. Fife
Alloa v Clyde
Berwick v Stenhousem'r
Brechin v Arbroath
Cowdenbeath v Stirling
Forfar v Montrose
Meadowbank v Stranraer

WHYTE POWER

CHRIS FORCES HIS WAY INTO ARSENAL'S FIRST TEAM . . .

ARSENAL defender Chris Whyte knew that this season was make or break for him at Highbury.

The 20-year-old, who's taken over from former Scottish international defender Willie Young at the centre of the 'Gunners' defence, said: "I had to make it in the side this season.

"It's around my age that players should be establishing themselves in the first team and I was determined to break through this season.

"But I didn't expect my chance to come so soon," added Chris, who made his League debut against Manchester City at Highbury in October.

He got his chance when unsettled Willie Young was ruled out of the side with a toe infection and he's since proved to manager Terry Neill that he's a capable replacement for the former Spurs star, who's since joined Nottingham Forest.

Willie was among one of the first players to congratulate Chris on his promotion to the first team and offered him a few words of valuable advice.

"Willie was fantastic. He told me to grab my chance with both hands," said Chris.

"He told me to keep things simple until I'd fully settled down. Then it was time to try the more difficult stuff."

Chris also acknowledges the help that the other members of the Arsenal defence have given to help him settle down to life in the First Division.

Anthony Hawkswell meets one of the First Division's new faces and discovers that his big chance came quite by accident.

"Pat Jennings, David O'Leary, Kenny Sansom and John Hollins are among the top names in the game and they've been tremendous in helping to ease me into the side.

"They are always shouting encouragement and giving me advice. It's been a great help having players of their calibre around.

"I was very nervous for the first couple of games, but I'm growing more confident with each match," said Chris, who showed his cool with a tremendous solo goal against West Ham in Arsenal's 2-1 win at Upton Park.

Chris controlled the ball on the edge of the box, turned and drove a fierce right foot shot past 'keeper Phil Parkes to score his first League goal.

"I just couldn't believe it when I saw the ball in the back of the net. It was a spectacular way to open my account."

Chris now has his sights on establishing himself in the first team but he knows that's not going to be an easy job.

"There's a lot of competition for places at Arsenal and I've got Stuart Robson pushing me hard for the central defender's job."

"Stuart made his debut against West Ham as a right-back, but he's a very good centre-half so I've got to keep ahead of him," added Chris.

"To do that I've got to improve certain aspects of my game — especially my heading. My timing hasn't been very good this season and I'm working hard on correcting it."

Chris was discovered by the Arsenal talent scouts quite by accident. They had gone down to a Bristol district schoolboys match with another player in mind.

"They must have been impressed with me because their scout came to see me immediately after the game," said Chris.

"It was like a dream come true because I've always been football mad and it was my ambition to become a professional."



Above: Arsenal goalkeeper Pat Jennings — just one of the experienced players who have helped Chris's game.

Right: Chris Whyte — took over from Willie Young at the heart of Arsenal's defence this season, but he says: "Willie was fantastic. He told me grab my chance with both hands."



Unstoppable!

FOCUS
ON
FOUR
GREAT
GOALS

1



3



2



4



- 1 Birmingham's goalscoring sensation Tony Evans slides the ball past West Brom 'keeper Tony Godden in the 3-3 draw at St Andrews.
- 2 Leeds' Scottish international Arthur Graham wheels away in delight after scoring his team's first goal in the 3-3 draw with West Ham.
- 3 Steve's stunner! Young Southampton striker Steve Moran rounds Liverpool's stranded goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar for a last-minute winner at Anfield.
- 4 Super sub Mich D'Avray beats Joe Corrigan to put Ipswich 2-0 up against Manchester City.

WIN A SIGNED KEVIN KEEGAN COLOUR PRINT

SIX fabulous colour photographs of Kevin Keegan — personally signed by the England captain himself — must be won in this FREE to enter competition.

The framed prints (10" x 8") will provide the lucky winners with a lifelong souvenir of England's qualification for the 1982 World Cup Finals.

To stand a chance of winning one of these super prizes all you have to do is correctly answer the 11 questions right.

All of the questions are based on Kevin's football career — past and present — and as you can see his name makes up the first letter of each of the answers.

Once you think you have solved our puzzle write your answers on a postcard or sealed down envelope and send your entries to:

'Keegan Competition', Match Weekly, 14 Holkham Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 0UF.

Entries must reach us no later than first post on January 8 and results will appear in our January 13 issue.

Normal Match Weekly rules apply.

Questions

- 1 One of my team mates at Southampton.
- 2 They were my deadly rivals on Merseyside.
- 3 ... Field is where my former Liverpool striking partner can now be found.
- 4 This is the country in which I skipped England in the European Championship Finals.
- 5 The country that almost cost us our World Cup Finals place.
- 6 The popular end at one of my former clubs.
- 7 The team I hope will win the World Cup in Spain.
- 8 One of the rival Bundesliga teams in my time with SV Hamburg.
- 9 Ivan the Saint!
- 10 One of my former 'homes'.
- 11 My favourite actress is Olivia ... John.

- 1 K
2 E
3 V
4 I
5 N
6 K ..
7 E
8 E
9 G
10 A
11 N

Above: Black and white photo of the Kevin Keegan print.

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Southampton's former England international continues his exciting lifestory **EXCLUSIVE** to Match Weekly.

The fiery midfielder general talks of his 17 tempestuous years at the top and this week relives his spell at Goodison Park where he was the hero of the Everton fans.

ALAN BALL

Sold to the

★★

JUST two weeks after helping England win the World Cup, I was on my way from Blackpool for a British record fee.

Harry Catterick, manager of FA Cup winners Everton, parted with £110,000 to take me to Goodison Park and I became the first player to be transferred for a six figure fee.

I could so easily have gone to Elland Road and joined Don Revie's all-conquering Leeds United.

But the reason I chose the Liverpool club was a simple one. Harry Catterick made the effort to come and talk to me whereas the Leeds boss wanted to conduct the business over the phone.

Big time

I was very flattered that Don Revie wanted me to link up in midfield with players of the calibre of Scottish international Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles.

But it's far easier to talk to a person face to face rather than down the line of a telephone, so I chose to move to Everton.

The Merseysiders were going places in those days and I believed they were on the brink of something big. They were called the millionaire club.

When I signed for Everton, I realised I had hit the big time. I was in a different world from homely Blackpool, who had shielded me from all the pressures of the game.

Now I was playing alongside such great players as England internationals Gordon West and Brian Labone as well as names like Jimmy Gabriel and Fred Pickering.

And I couldn't have hoped for a better start to my career in a blue and white shirt for I scored on my debut at Craven Cottage against Fulham on the opening day of the 1966-67 season.

It was quite a spectacular effort, too. The ball came out to me on the edge of the box and I hammered a shot from about 25 yards out past their goalkeeper.

In fact, I scored in two of our opening three games — including a couple against Merseyside rivals Liverpool.

We beat them 3-1 and I'll never

forget my first taste of that extra special derby atmosphere. I went in blind and didn't know what to expect.

It's as if you're a supporter on the terraces because you feel the fans' agonies and triumphs.

I was very lucky at Everton because the fans took to me straight away. They were unbelievable to me and I've never been worshipped like that since I was at Goodison.

It was an exciting time on Merseyside with Liverpool and us battling for the supremacy of the city and we were both involved in everything.

In 1967-68, we reached the final of the FA Cup only to go down to West Bromwich Albion in one of the most unbelievable results in the history of the competition.

We'd already beaten the Midlands side 5-3 and 6-2 earlier in the season and we were very confident of making it three wins in a row.

There's no doubt that we were the better team on the day and I just couldn't believe it when England international Jeff Astle hit a rebound off Colin Harvey into the back of the net in extra time.

But we reached our peak a couple of seasons later when we romped to the First Division Championship by a massive nine-point margin over our nearest rivals Leeds United.

The best

At the half-way stage, it looked as though we would be involved in a dogfight to the end with Don Revie's men, but we moved up a gear and walked it in the later stages.

By this time, myself, Colin Harvey and Howard Kendall had knitted ourselves into a tremendous trio and I believe it was the best midfield I've ever played in.

We had a telepathic understanding. It wasn't something we'd particularly worked on. We just seemed to suit each other's styles.

But almost immediately after winning the title, manager Harry Catterick decided it was time to rebuild. I believe he was wrong and that he broke the side up too soon.



Above: My former midfield team-mate at Everton, Howard Kendall. I hope he can bring the glory days back to Goodison Park.

Below: Leeds manager Allan Clarke. His penalty for England against Czechoslovakia made sure we qualified for the quarter finals of the World Cup in Mexico.



TELLS MATCH HOW HE WAS... millionaires

There was plenty more that we could have achieved and I don't think the club have ever recovered from his decision.

Howard Kendall, Jimmy Husband and striker Joe Royle all left the club before they should have done.

Everton have struggled to make any impression since and I feel sorry for the club and feel deeply for the fans. The supporters have an intoxicating influence over the players and we couldn't let them down.

At the moment, they are suffering in silence but I believe the wheel of fortune will turn back in their favour before long. I hope it's under new manager Howard Kendall.

On the international scene, old faces were being replaced by new as Sir Alf Ramsey prepared to defend the World Cup in Mexico in 1970.

Confidence was high when we were drawn to play West Germany in the quarter finals... but few of us could have ever dreamt of what was going to happen in that fateful match.

I'll tell you about our West German disaster next week and also about my move to another of Britain's top clubs.

Alan Ball



So sad

It was sad to see such players as Ray Wilson, George Cohen and Roger Hunt leave the international arena but it was just a natural progression.

We finished third in the 1968 European Nations Cup in Italy after losing the semi-final 1-0 to runners-up Yugoslavia.

And by the time Mexico came round, I thought Sir Alf had collected a better side than the one which won him the World Cup four years earlier.

It was a squad of more quality that flew to South America and the players were very confident that they could defend the trophy on foreign soil.

Bobby Moore was still there captaining the side along with myself, Bobby Charlton, Geoff Hurst, Martin Peters and 'keeper Gordon Banks.

We started our defence of the trophy against Rumania and won a scrappy game 1-0 thanks to West Ham's Geoff Hurst — but the next match was the big tester. We faced up to favourites Brazil.

We were the team that Brazil feared and gave them a real fright before they eventually won 1-0. We made sure of qualifying for the quarter-finals a couple of days later with an Allan Clarke penalty against Czechoslovakia.



Above: Alan Ball today — a Southampton player for the second time and still running things in midfield.

Left: Former Stoke goalkeeper Gordon Banks. He was still in top form for England in the Mexico World Cup Finals in 1970.

NEXT WEEK: I break the British record transfer for the second time in my career... life at Highbury... World Cup disaster.

SOUTHAMPTON





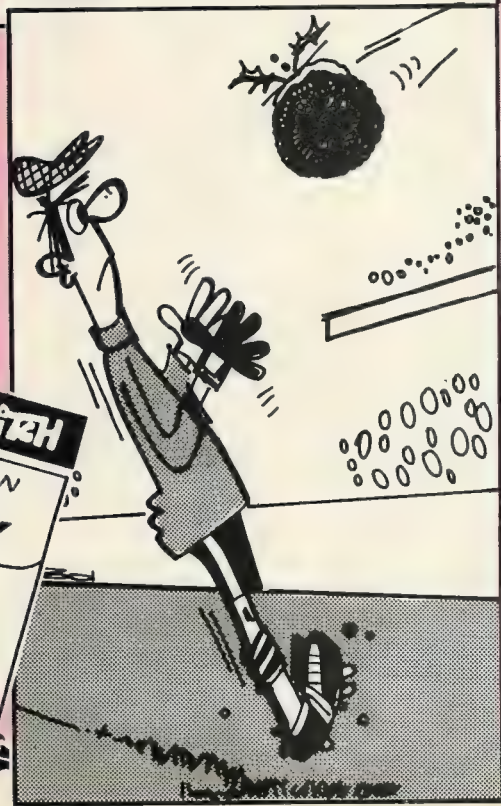
Back row:— (left to right) Graham Baker, Nick Holmes, Chris Nicholl, Trevor Hebbard (currently on loan to Leicester), Steve Moran.
Middle row:— Lew Chatterley (trainer/coach), David Armstrong, Steve Williams, Ivan Katalinic, Peter Wells, Ivan Golac, Malcolm Waldron, John Mortimer (assistant manager).
Front row:— Mike Channon, Kevin Keegan, Lawrie McMenemy (manager), Dave Watson, Alan Ball.



IT'S FUN TIME



HERE's a few Christmas 'crackers' to help the holiday spirit along.
 Don't forget, if you have any football jokes, send them to Football Funnies, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ. You could win £2!



CARLISLE United may be miles away from West Ham in geographical terms.

But the influence of that cultural football academy in the East End is very much in evidence at the Cumbrian soccer outpost.

There, player-coach Bryan 'Pop' Robson, one of West Ham's most popular footballing sons, is putting into practice the knowledge and experience he gleaned from two spells at Upton Park with Ron Greenwood and John Lyall.

They were, according to Pop, the most influential days of his long and distinguished career, and now he hopes to transform those West Ham preachings into profitable results.

"If I could get a team playing like West Ham then I would be highly delighted," says Pop, who joined Carlisle from Sunderland towards the end of last season.

"Within the limitations of the players and the framework of the Third Division, I try to instil West Ham's approach to the game.

"We try to keep the game as simple as possible, which has always been preached by John Lyall and Ron Greenwood.

"We attempt to play attacking football, but we are also very conscious of our defensive responsibilities. We don't try to do too many silly things.

"Our attitude is to play the game as simply as possible and to try and get the ball forward to the front men as quickly as we can."

And in unison with experienced manager Bob Stokoe, Pop's message appears to be having the desired effect.

Carlisle are in the promotion scramble and, after a recent 2-1 win at Millwall, they were acclaimed by beaten player-manager Peter Anderson as 'the best team we've played this season'.

And that's not bad progress for a side that just avoided relegation a few months ago.

POP GO CARLISLE

Several new players have been brought to Brunton Park in an attempt to revive the flagging fortunes of a club that only six years ago was in the First Division.

Experienced defenders like David Rushbury and Jackie Ashurst and striker Bob Lee have made a major difference.

"It was quite clear after last season that we needed some new blood," says Pop.

"It's taken time for the new players to settle down and, in recent weeks, we have picked up a few good results to boost confidence.

Honest

"We've got a lot of players in the side who are capable of scoring goals, like Bob Lee, myself, Peter Beardsley, Gordon Staniforth and Paul Bannon, and the side as a whole is working very hard.

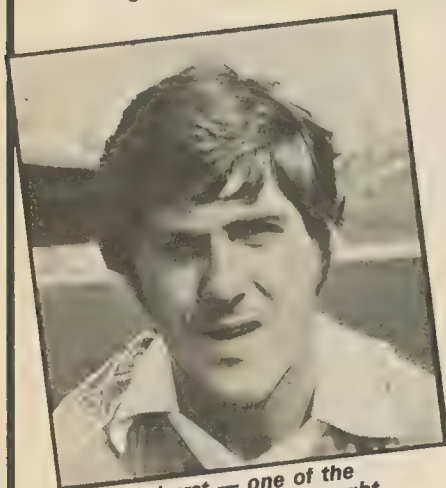
"We've got a lot better squad this season and I see no reason why we can't stay in the promotion race.

"To be quite honest, there are no outstanding teams in the division. Everybody is beating everybody else.

"If we continue to work hard and play as we are capable of playing, then we can beat most teams."

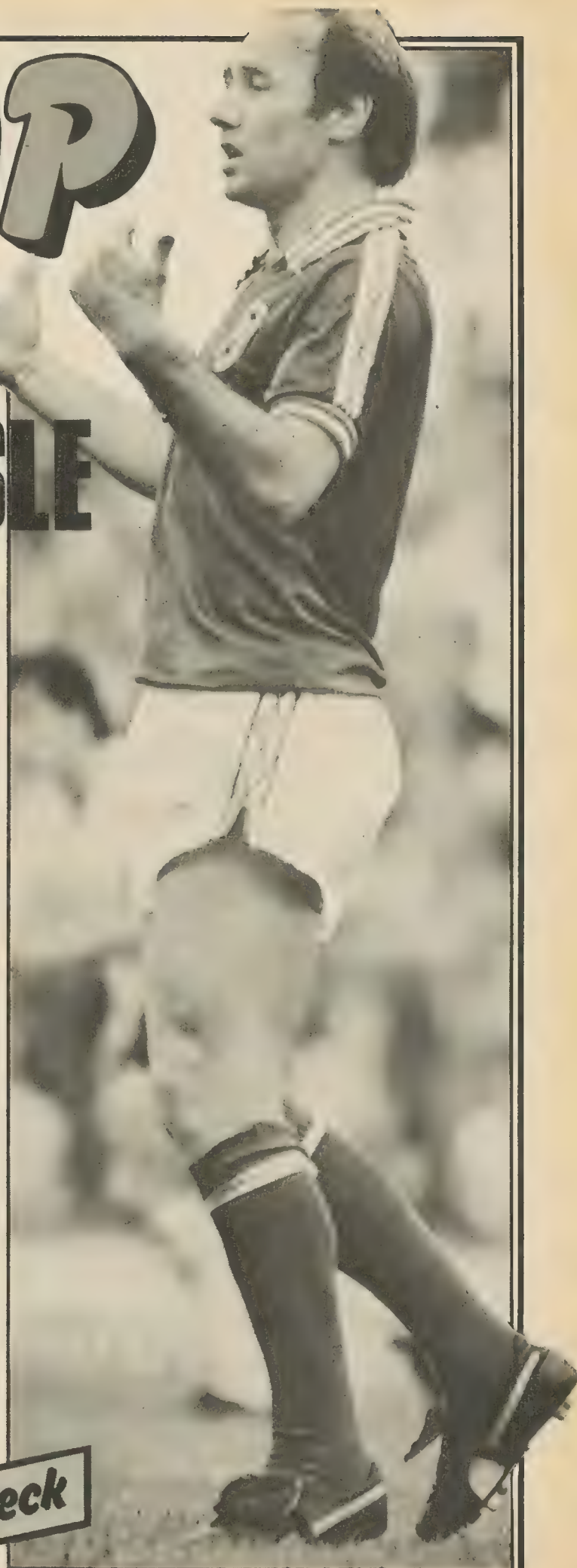
And Pop intends to be very much a part of Carlisle's progress on the park.

"I'm still enjoying playing and I hope I can go on for another year at least, even though I enjoy the coaching side of the game," says Pop, who is now operating behind the strikers.



Jackie Ashurst — one of the experienced defenders brought in to revive flagging fortunes at Brunton Park.

Right: 'Pop' Robson — hoping to transform West Ham preachings into profitable results at Carlisle.



**Focus on Divisions
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**West Ham super
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writes just for you
and tells why he
believes Stuart
Pearson would be a
real bargain buy for
the New Year . . .**

DON'T be frightened to buy Stuart Pearson.

That's my message to any First Division manager looking for a top class striker at a bargain price.

Stuart showed in the 2-1 home defeat by Arsenal that he has not lost his sharpness despite the fact that it was only his third full senior outing in 16 months.

He took his goal well and was probably our best player on the day when we lost a League match

Geoff Pike —
played really
well over the
past two
seasons.



Pen pals

I AM a seventeen-year-old girl who would like a male pen pal of about the same age who supports Manchester United.
Nikki Edworthy, 67 Broadway Avenue, Kingsteignton, South Devon.

I AM a 15-year-old boy who supports Liverpool and I would like pen pals who support any team in the world.
Rajinder Gill, 17 Kingsdown Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3LW.

I AM a 15-year-old Leeds supporter who would like a male or female pen pal between the ages of 15 and 17 who supports Leeds and lives in the Yorkshire area.
Susan Temple, 101 Kent Road, Halling, Rochester, Kent.

I AM a six-year-old Aston Villa fan who would like a pen pal from abroad.
Andrew Flack, 16 Alice Close, Hampton Dene, Hereford.

I AM a 16-year-old Ipswich supporter who would like a pen pal of about the same age who lives in the Ipswich area, or a Dutch pen pal who likes football.
Cathy Hunt, 1 Don Close, Greenmeadow Estate, Swindon, Wilts.

I AM a 16-year-old Barnsley supporter who would like a pen pal from anywhere in the country.
Keith Sheldon, 54 Carnforth Road, Monk Bretton, Barnsley, South Yorks.

I AM a 15-year-old Liverpool fan who would like a pen pal from anywhere in the world.
Rebecca Wyke, Wykehurst, Grove Road, Cranleigh, Surrey.

UP STUART!

Pearson's a bargain at £45,000

at home for the first time since Luton toppled us on the opening day of last season.

Stuart is keen to return to the north where he made his name with Manchester United and I understand he is available for around £45,000.

At that price, West Ham are doing other clubs a favour because if I was a First Division manager I would have no hesitation in buying him.

Maybe managers are a little apprehensive in view of his recent injury problems, but at the moment he's the fittest he has been for six or seven years.

He hasn't missed a day's training in the last 15 months and he's been playing in the reserves all this season.

So he's fit and ready to return to the Football League on a regular basis.

It was a pity that Stuart's first game of the season coincided with our first home League defeat of the year.

Aggression

Apart from the absence of Paul Goddard, we were also missing Geoff Pike and Jimmy Neighbour, which obviously didn't help our cause against Arsenal.

Geoff's aggression and determination was matched by young Paul Allen, but over the past two seasons Geoff has been playing really well.

Jimmy Neighbour has settled down well after a difficult time in his early days at Upton Park, so you are bound to miss a player of his experience and calibre.

But, although the balance of the side was upset, one can't take anything away from Arsenal who once again proved how difficult they are to penetrate.

We presented them with an early goal, and a penalty right on the stroke of half time left us with little hope of getting back into the game.

When you are down by one goal you always have a chance, but at two down, and against a side as well organised as Arsenal, you have a difficult task.

It was our second home setback in the space of a few days with my old club West Brom putting us out of the League Cup in a second replay.

Unfortunately I didn't see much of the 1-0 defeat having limped out

of the match after 15 minutes, the legacy of an early blow on the knee.

That left us with little aerial power up front and the lads found it difficult to re-arrange themselves.

Having been behind in the previous two matches, we felt we might have a psychological advantage this time, but in the end it was not to be, with big Cyrille Regis settling the match.

He scored in all three matches against us and, at the moment, he's playing as well as any centre forward in the country.

There's obviously a big hue and cry throughout the country for Cyrille to be called into the England squad.

As far as I am concerned, I would simply let England manager Ron Greenwood be the judge of that.

I'm not certain what qualities an England centre forward requires, but I'm sure if Ron feels that Cyrille is the man for the job, then he'll get his chance.

Looking at our Christmas programme, I can tell you that the person or machine that drew up the fixtures isn't very popular at West Ham.

Having to travel on Christmas Day for a match at Swansea is not everyone's idea of a holiday fixture.

I appreciate that footballers don't get much chance to celebrate Christmas, but it is nice for the players with families to spend some time at home on Christmas Day.

But having to face a trip to Swansea has made the lads even more determined not to return empty-handed.

Like ourselves, Swansea have made a promising start in the First Division, and I'm not surprised because they have some very experienced players.

We won 3-1 there last season, but since then they have added players like Bob Latchford and Colin Irwin to the squad, and it is often overlooked that most of their players are fully-fledged internationals.

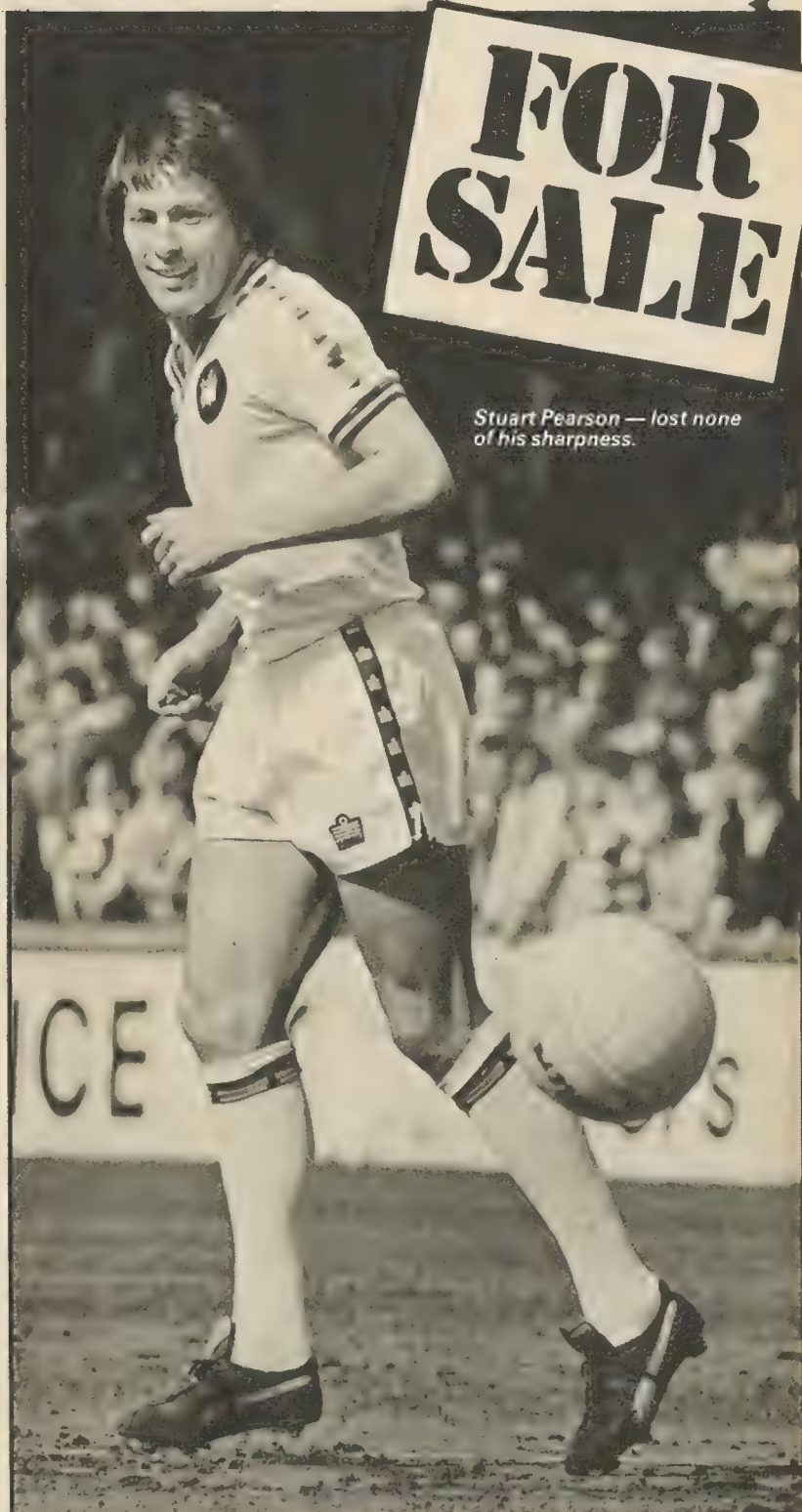
Our home game over the festive period is against Ipswich.

They may not have produced last season's consistency but they remain one of the top sides in the country.

When you face teams like Ipswich you must expect them to be at their best.

FOR SALE

Stuart Pearson — lost none of his sharpness.



With six points at stake in a little matter of two days, it's going to be an important period for all the teams with Championship ambitions.

Wishing all Match readers a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Croft

STAR GALLERY

DRAW your favourite footballer and you could win £2. Send your work of art to Star Gallery, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

Swansea striker Bob Latchford is "a good, old-fashioned centre forward and a deadly finisher," according to 14-year-old Marvin Nash, of Worsley, near Manchester.



Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish (above) is the choice of 13-year-old Stuart Jones of Prestatyn, North Wales. "Kenny terrific turning ability and is very sharp in front of goal," he says.



Above: Liverpool reader Vincent Phillipson hopes that Match Weekly columnist Graeme Souness "carries on playing as well as he has in the past. He has helped Liverpool win many trophies".

Tottenham and England midfield wizard Glenn Hoddle (left) deserves a place in Star Gallery because he is "exceptional", says Russell Blackwell of Upper Stondon, Beds.

Left: "One of the best young players around", is the way 12-year-old Richard Rumbold, of Hartley, near Dartford, Kent, describes Brighton defender Steve Foster.

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TARDELLI

tips Italy

THERE are conflicting views within the Italian camp as to how they will fare in the World Cup.

Juventus hard man Marco Tardelli, the one who marked Kevin Keegan in last year's European Championship, reckons the return of Paolo Rossi after suspension will tip the scales Italy's way.

But Inter-Milan's Giampiero Marini, a newcomer to the squad, has a different opinion. "I think Brazil, Argentina and West Germany are the top three," he says.

"They are one step ahead of us all at the moment. I was very impressed with the Brazilians in their tour last year when they beat England, France and West Germany.

"We think we are the second best team in Europe so I'm sure that we can do well in Spain."

But Marco adds: "Italy are one of the top five teams in the world at the moment and certainly the most experienced.

"We only need a real centre forward to turn us into a great side and I think Rossi will do that for us in Spain. He

will be eligible and, with him, I think we can win the World Cup."

But Italy were none too convincing in their 1-0 defeat of Luxembourg in their last qualifying match in Naples.

The goal came from Collovati and Italy go to Spain as runners-up to Yugoslavia in Group Five.

Meanwhile, one of Italy's star players, Roberto Bettiga, has had a knee operation for ligament damage.

This is a bad blow for both Juventus and Italy because 'Bobby-Gol', as he is known, is reckoned to be worth twenty per cent efficiency to both teams.

● THE opening game of the 1982 World Cup will be played in Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium on June 13 in front of 125,000 spectators. Of these, 7,500 will be journalists.



Italy's Marco Tardelli — believes that with Paolo Rossi, Italy can win the World Cup.

WORLD CUP '82

RICH PICKINGS!

KUWAIT became the 23rd nation to qualify for the Finals when they defeated Saudia Arabia 2-0 to clinch one of the two Asia/Oceania places.

The oil-rich state may be regarded as one of the soccer minnows among the finalists, but their players will probably be the richest.

Each player received a reported £40,000 for qualifying and their Brazilian coach, Carlos Alberto Pereira, collected a bonus that is believed to have included a Cadillac car and a new house.

Eire miss out

AS in the case of Wales, Eire missed out on the World Cup Finals on goal difference.

They were edged out in Group Two by France, who achieved their expected home victory over Cyprus to qualify for Spain.

Goals by Lacombe (2), Rocheteau and Genghini earned France their passport to join Group winners Belgium in the finals. Final table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	8	5	1	2	12	9	11
France	8	5	0	3	20	8	10
EIRE	8	4	2	2	17	11	10
Holland	8	4	1	3	11	7	9
Cyprus	8	0	0	8	4	22	0

Scrapbook

ONLY 24 WEEKS TO GO

Breitner's at home in Spain

PAUL Breitner, West Germany's much-maligned captain, is aiming for a second homecoming in next summer's World Cup Finals.

It will be a double celebration too, if he is leading the Germans in the tournament.

It will be a chance to enjoy a return to the country he regards as his second home — he spent three years with Real Madrid in the mid-seventies — and an opportunity to once again return to the big time scene of the World Cup.

"I would regard the World Cup Finals as a fitting way to bow out, especially

as it is being played in Spain," he says. "I plan to retire at 32 anyway when my current contract with Bayern Munich runs out."

Of the current German team, the man who shot to fame as the goalscoring left back in the 1974 World Cup winning team, says: "The team has made tremendous progress since 1978. I would not have thought of returning to join that international team, but this one is really worth it."



KELLY'S EYE ON PROMOTION

SAME again, Eddie! That's what Leicester manager Jock Wallace wants from his new midfield signing.

Former Arsenal and QPR star Eddie Kelly led Leicester to the First Division two seasons ago and Jock is hoping that he can revive the club's dwindling promotion hopes this term.

Eddie joined Leicester on a free transfer from Bournemouth and is now chasing an incredible promotion hat-trick.

For if the midfielder manages to help the club bounce straight back to the top flight, he'll have achieved promotion to the First Division for the past three seasons.

He skipped Leicester to the Second Division Championship in 1979-80 and last season played 27 League games for Notts County as they went up with West Ham and Swansea.

"A return to Leicester is a great move for me and I'm looking forward to helping them recapture their promotion form," said 31-year-old Eddie.

"The move came right out of the blue. I just wasn't expecting it," he explained.

Bournemouth manager David Webb was great about the whole thing. When I joined the club in the summer he agreed to let me go if a bigger club came in, and he stuck to his word.

"I really enjoyed my spell on the south coast, but I couldn't refuse an offer to play at a higher level. I still believe I'm good enough.

"The manager wants me to do the same job I did two seasons ago — provide experience in the middle of the park," added Eddie, who played 85 League games in his first spell at Filbert Street.

"The side contains a lot of youngsters and they're all very keen, but sometimes their enthusiasm runs away with them. They try to play the game at 100 miles an hour.

"I'm hoping that I'll be able to slow them down and give them composure on the ball."

*Match Weekly
puts the spotlight
on Leicester's
new midfield
signing Eddie
Kelly*

Leicester were relegated from the First Division last season and were many people's favourites to bounce straight back to the top flight.

But Jock's youngsters have failed to live up to their pre-season promise and are currently out of the promotion scene and languishing in the middle of the Second Division.

That's not a place that newcomer Eddie wants to see the team in for very long. He says: "With this new three points for a win system, it's very easy to jump up the table.

"A string of good results could push us right back in the reckoning," said Eddie, who started his career at Arsenal and was a member of the 'Gunners' glorious double winning side of 1970-71.

"They've lacked finish up front. At home the pace tends to be quicker and the players do things they wouldn't try away."

But Eddie believes that Leicester's goalscoring problems will ease considerably when striker Alan Young returns from a cartilage injury.

"He's an essential part of the team and Leicester have missed him. He's good at holding the ball up and supporting players.

"Alan's partner up front, Jim Melrose, has also been out and that hasn't helped the balance of the side," added Eddie.



Circled: Eddie Kelly — returned to Leicester to revitalise the club's promotion push.

Left: Leicester striker Jim Melrose — out through injury this season along with partner Alan Young.



CHRISTMAS SOCCERWORD

Clues Across:

1. Do an exciting last ditch defensive job with the goalkeeper beaten (5,3,3,4)
8. They're certainly not ruling their division and, anyway, they play *North* of the border! (5,2,3,5)
15. If this Sheffield Wednesday star had an extra letter on his name he could get into a Christmas pudding! (6)
16. He played a record number of games for Chelsea before Brentford bought him (6)
17. West Ham's spot hot-shot (7)
19. It comes to blows when the ref's involved! (7)
21. A new player won't be helping his club on the way to Wembley if he's this! (3-4)
22. Wembley's big month (3)
23. This Darlington defender has been a captain all his life! (7)
24. 'In'ere! (anagram) — that's where Mr. Walley, the former Palace boss is to be found (5)
25. New Year (well, shuffled about a bit!) for this Halifax defender (4)
26. Sea creature to be seen in Southend's crest (6)
27. Plymouth Argyle signed Andy ----- from Southampton this season (6)
28. He not only managed Charlton for twenty-three years, he also took turns at Orient, Bristol City and Millwall! (4)
33. 'D. C. Harris' (anagram — this striker with around 115 League goals to his credit is due to have a testimonial match against Moscow Dynamo soon (8)
34. Barry and Steve have often been a duo at Derby (6)
35. This additional Cup match may prove as inconclusive as the original one (6)
36. The Lair of the Wolves (8)
39. A manager is ----- to offers for players on his transfer list (4)
41. The nickname of 60 across (6)
42. Hull's regular 'keeper over the last two years (6)
44. Derek Dougans nickname looks good backwards! (4)
48. A slice of dessert for a Rochdale man (5)
50. Last season Aston Villa won the League Championship for the ----- time (7)
52. Old Birmingham and England 'keeper Merrick had a bit of agility! (3)
53. What a player of a country competing in Olympic Games soccer is supposed to be (7)
54. This famous international forward is actually French, but his name mainly consists of an old *Italian* language! (7)
55. 'Tedious' (anagram — you may get this right!) (7)
56. The Champions of Cyprus ----- Nicosia, were knocked out of this season's 2 down by Benfica (6)
57. One sort of free-kick (6)
59. England's colours and change colours (3,5,3,4)
60. The boys of Bramhall Lane (9,6)

Clues Down:

1. Defender --- Podd played his 400th League match for Bradford City this season (3)
2. On this side of the world it's the top club trophy (8,3)
3. What's the name of the club which tells you what you are doing to this clue (7)
4. Near neighbours of Everton and Liverpool (8)
5. 'Relay' (anagram — this sort of pass often splits defenders) (5)
6. Famous club which could be in the used car business; it bought a Cooper but sold a Talbot, an Austin and a Morris! (7)
7. 'Is it Al's green shirt?' (anagram) — not if he plays for *this* club, their shirts are black and white (4,13)
8. Terry Venables and Gordon Williams wrote a book called *They Used To Play On Grass* ... now that has come true for Terry's club! (6,4,7)
9. He has managed 3 down for around the last five years (5)
10. City where 2 down was sitting in 1979 and 1980 (10)
11. This could be Mr. Kendall (6)
12. The nickname of the first Scottish club to be found in 8 down (7)
13. 'Top 'un' (anagram) — a well known London Park (5)
14. Mark this Northampton man who used to play for Arsenal and Peterborough (6)
18. The ----- Stadium (Wembley) (6)
20. This Wrexham striker (who was with Chester at the time) scored four goals against Malta in his first full match for Wales (7)
21. Could this be Trevor's favourite fruit? (6)
29. It sounds like a long-lasting Christmas gift for a player who hasn't missed a match (4-7)
30. Posh address! (6,4)
31. The home of Hamilton Academicals is ----- Park (7)
32. 'The Grecians' (6)
37. What Chris Woods could be wearing ... (6)
38. ... what he stands on ... (4-4)
40. ... and where he does it! (7)
43. The Irish Champions who were knocked out of this season's 2 down by KB Copenhagen (7)
45. Arsenal have an Underground ----- named after them (7)
46. Such a player should not only save things, he shouldn't give anything away either! (6)
47. In the NASL players have merit tables in which a scorer earns 2 points and the man who made the pass for the goal 1 point for an ----- (6)
49. Spectators just can't do this at Coventry! (5)
51. Players usually stay in one before away matches (5)
52. If his last name is an anagram of Ruth's, what's his first name? (5)
58. This MacDougall was the last man in Manchester United and West Ham United (3)

TURN TO PAGE 39 FOR THE SOLUTION

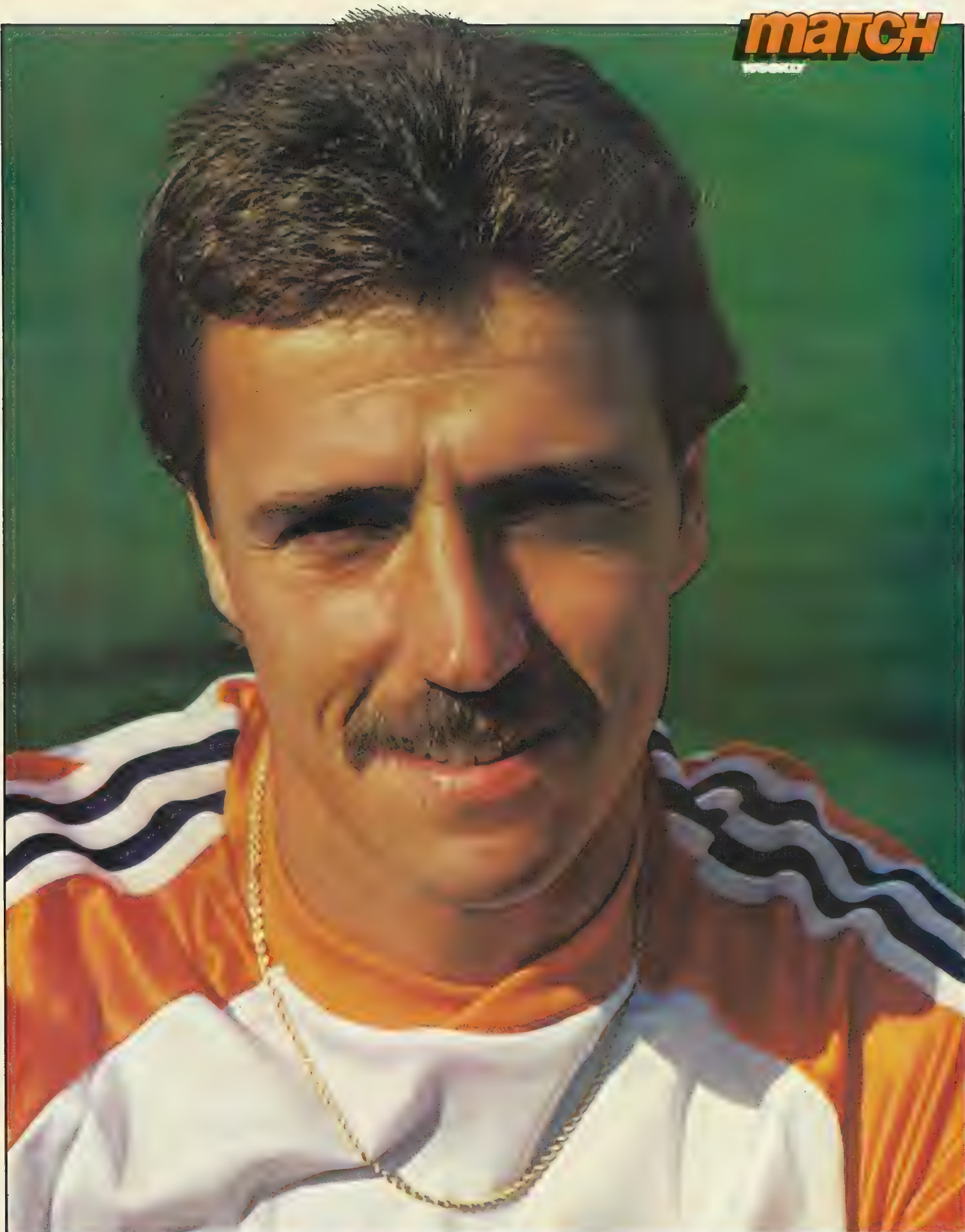
match **DUNDEE UNITED**

Back row (left to right) — Andrew GRAHAM, David DODDS, Richard GOUGH, John GARDINER, David NAREY, Willie PETTIGREW, Hamish McALPINE.

Middle row (left to right) — Ralph MILNE, John HOLT, Derek STARK, Joe WARD, Ian PHILLIP, Ian GIBSON.
Front row — Frank KOPEL, Eamonn BANNON, Billy KIRKWOOD, Paul HEGARTY, Paul STURROCK, Derek MURRAY, Graeme PAYNE.
In foreground — Scottish League Cup.



match



DAVID MOSS Luton Town

SWOP SHOP

OFFER: Three Ipswich programmes, including UEFA Cup Final first leg v AZ67 Alkmaar.

WANTS: Match Weekly's from November 1980 which included Gary Shaw's lifestory.
Heidi Prentice, 1 Oakdene, Kirkton, near Ipswich.

OFFER: Autographs and football programmes.

WANTS: Autographs.
Sean McClafferty, 9 Glenelg Quad, Glasgow G34 0GD.

OFFER: Manchester United scarf, bracelet, two Northampton programmes and ten football magazines.

WANTS: Manchester United shirt and shorts (youth size).
Sharon Hawkins, 25 Wappenham Road, Syresham, Brackley, Northants NN13 5HQ.

OFFER: 1981 Dynamo Berlin v Aston Villa (European Cup).

WANTS: Nottingham Forest programmes v Liverpool, Aston Villa or Spurs.
Frank Schultz, Rixdorferstrasse 90, 1000 Berlin, 45, West Germany.

OFFER: Subbuteo pitch, scoreboard and four teams.

WANTS: Leeds United scarf (vertical stripe, not named) plus 30 programmes (any teams).
Mark Spooner, 119 Twickenham Road, Newton Abbot, Devon.

OFFER: Manchester United rosette and pennant.

WANTS: Spurs v Manchester City 1981 Cup Final programme (final and replay).
Malcolm Faulder (14), 8 Swinderby Road, Norton Disney, Lincoln LN6 9JT.

OFFER: Dutch tournament programme (Ajax v Arsenal v AZ67 v Hamburg).

WANTS: Match Weekly Vol. 1 No. 50, dated August 16th, plus the Kevin Keegan Matchmakers Album and stickers that came with it.
Andrew Laycock, 14 Sunnydale Road, Lee, London SE12 8JN.

SWOP SHOP

MY SECRET



Russell Osman — he's determined to win back his England place.

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TORMENT

by PAUL MARINER

England's World Cup hero Paul Mariner writes just for you and only in Match. Don't miss the Ipswich striker's exclusive column every fortnight!



MY injury torment is over.

For the past year, I've been keeping an injury secret... even from manager Bobby Robson.

I've been nursing a painful stomach strain that, over the months, has gradually deteriorated to the stage where I have now had to seek medical advice.

With Ipswich on course for another Championship drive and England in the World Cup Finals next summer, I could not afford to go on hoping that the injury would just disappear.

I continued to ignore the pain when sprinting and kicking with my right foot, but it reached the point where I just couldn't go on.

I'm not saying that my contribution to club and country over the past year would have been any greater without the

injury.

In fact, the manager has been more than satisfied with my performances, but in my own mind I realise that I have not shown the sparkle and freedom that forms such an important part of my game.

I have been concerned about the injury for some time. In the early days I suffered mostly after the match, but recently I have had more problems during the game.

The club physiotherapist was aware of my problem, but felt it was up to me whether I continued to play.

So I decided to battle on because most players in the country play at times when not 100 per cent fit.

But now I am in a happier frame of mind knowing that a course of injections should cure the problem.

I've set my sights on being back for the crucial Christmas clashes with Tottenham (home) and West Ham (away) which are virtually local derbies for us.

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Gamble

★★★★★★★★★★★★

On paper, they look to have the ingredients of two Christmas crackers, for all of us play entertaining football and have our eyes firmly fixed on the title.

Mind you, I've got to convince the manager of my fitness because there would be no point in taking a gamble in two important matches.

Anyway, the young reserve players who have come into the side recently during our injury crisis have done a tremendous job.

Our treatment room before the visit to Middlesbrough resembled a battlefield with no fewer than eight players on the casualty list.

But our patched-up side duly collected the points at Ayresome Park with my deputy, Mich D'Avray, getting the winner.

Mich has tremendous potential, but while still retaining his South

Left: Mich D'Avray — tremendous potential.



African citizenship, his chances at the club will be restricted as long as Arnold Muhren and Frans Thijssen are around.

A club is allowed to play only two foreign players, but Mich may take out British citizenship to overcome that situation.

He's a tall, rangy striker who is good in the air and deceptively quick. He's a very honest player and is always willing to learn.

Our defence is operating well at the moment.

Russell Osman is determined to win back his England place; Terry Butcher is playing at the top of his form; George Burley is making tremendous strides after his long absence and young Steve McCall is as solid as ever.

And in midfield, skipper Mick Mills has been playing as if that has been his position for the past twenty years.

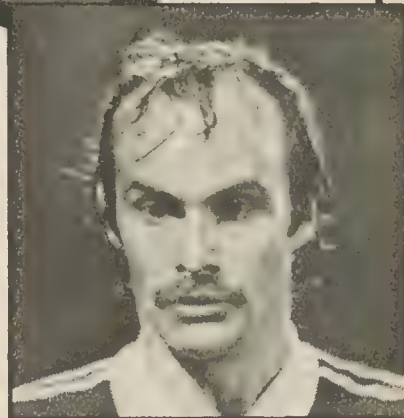
I think everyone at the club is relieved that Mick has decided to turn down an offer from Sunderland because his experience and ability will be so vital in the club's championship drive.

Deep down, I feel that Mick would dearly love a midfield role, but with Frans, John Wark and Arnold around, he's not had much opportunity.

From my own point of view, I shall be glad to be back in action because I am one of the world's worst watchers.

I never enjoy watching us play because I get so tense and involved. It's because I want us to win so badly.

But I did enjoy a night out at Colchester recently with Frans. I saw their 2-1 win over Blackpool and the players showed a lot of commitment.



Mick Mills — everyone at the club is relieved he turned down the Sunderland offer.


It will soon be the time for reflecting on the past year and looking ahead to the next.

I will remember 1981 for our UEFA Cup win and the way we entertained the fans all over the country with our football.

It was also a year in which I established myself in the England squad and helped them reach the World Cup Finals.

No prizes for guessing my New Year hopes. A championship medal and a place in England's World Cup squad.

Hope you have a happy Christmas and a happy New Year!



ROSS

JACK

NORWICH CITY

FULL NAME: James Ross Jack.
BIRTHPLACE/DATE: Inverness, March 21, 1959.
HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 5ft 11ins/12st.
MARRIED: Yes to Andrea.
CHILDREN: None.
CAR: Triumph Dolomite 1850HL.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Everton, Cardiff (on loan).
TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: None.
WORST EVER INJURY: Burst a vein in my calf, 1979-80 season.
FAVOURITE FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYER AND WHY: Kenny Dalglish — he's the complete player.
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Glasgow Rangers.
FAVOURITE FOREIGN PLAYER AND WHY: Pele — he was my childhood hero.
BEST ALL-TIME BRITISH TEAM: Banks (England), McGrain (Scotland), Cooper, Moore, Hunter (England), Best (N. Ireland), Baxter (Scotland), Charlton R. (England), Johnstone, Law, Dalglish (Scotland).
ALL-TIME INTERNATIONAL XI: Brazil's 1970 World Cup-winning side.
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Goodison Park.
FAVOURITE FOREIGN STADIUM AT WHICH YOU HAVE PLAYED: The Orange Bowl, United States.
BEST GOAL SCORED: Diving header against Newcastle 1981-82.
BEST GOAL SEEN SCORED: Bryan Robson's for West Brom against Everton, 1978-79.
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Many.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Debut for Everton against Middlesbrough.
OWN MAGIC MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Scoring in that match.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being relegated with Norwich last season.
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Swimming, golf, badminton.
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Scoring goals, good food.
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoke-filled rooms, traffic jams, losing.
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Fawlty Towers.
TV SHOW YOU ALWAYS SWITCH OFF: The Good Old Days, party political broadcasts.
FAVOURITE READING: Match Weekly.
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN/SINGER: Steve Miller.
FAVOURITE FOOD: Beef stroganoff.
FAVOURITE DRINK: Milk.
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Norway.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood, Lesley Anne Down.
BEST FRIEND: My wife.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My family.
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT FOOTBALL: Losing and long away trips.
SUPERSTITION: Going out onto the pitch second last.
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Rice pudding, peaches.
PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Dave Watson (Norwich).
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Listen to your coach and be enthusiastic when training.

GET TOUGH!

TOUGHER punishment should be handed out to players who commit the so-called professional foul.

Any player who commits a deliberate foul should be sent off immediately and a penalty awarded — no matter where on the pitch the offence occurred.

Paul Gerrard, Carshalton, Surrey.

Pop-Gunners

NO wonder Arsenal are having a rotten season — no team can do well without their best player.

Would Spurs be doing so well had they sold Glenn Hoddle? No. Terry Neil must have been crazy to sell Steve Gatting.

Lauren Strauss, London.

Charlie is my darling

CONGRATULATIONS to Celtic on winning the recent Daily Express Five-a-Side tournament at Wembley.

They out-played the likes of Ipswich and Southampton and young Charlie Nicholas looked world class.

I think Celtic should be given the chance to prove themselves on a full-size pitch in a competition involving the top teams from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. It could be called the U.K. Cup.

Nigel Hudson, Bourneville, Birmingham.

Cleaning up the game!

SIMON Giffin of Epsom, Surrey, sent us the following clipping and asks: "I wonder how many senior citizens phoned up hoping to break into League football as a defender."

On the Ball!

ALAN Ball should be given some sort of award for his loyal service to football.

Since helping steer England to their World Cup victory in 1966, he has gone on to prove his dedication with Southampton, Arsenal and Blackpool.

Whatever role he plays, he always gives 100 per cent.

Congratulations Alan, and keep up the good work.

Chris Cowen, East Herrington, Tyne and Wear.

It's goals that should count

AWARDING three points for a win has not made one scrap of difference as far as making football more entertaining is concerned.

Boring sides like Middlesbrough and Sunderland still play defensively.

The only way to make football more exciting is award points for goals — e.g. four points for a 4-0 win.

A 2-1 win would qualify for just one point and teams that draw should get no points.

S. Mallender, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

WE NEED OLD 'UNS

WHY are people pensioning off the likes of Trevor Brooking, Kevin Keegan and a few others of the 'old brigade'?

England will need them in Spain next year because you need experience against the likes of Brazil and West Germany.

I agree England need some youngsters such as Alan Devonshire, Alvin Martin, Tony Morley, Paul Goddard and Glenn Hoddle, but for people like Brooking and Keegan, it will be their last chance to play in the finals of a World Cup and it would be unfair if they didn't get the chance having done so much to get England to Spain.

If it hadn't been for Brooking's two goals against Hungary, we wouldn't have qualified for Spain.

So don't forget the 'old brigade', Ron.

Caroline Mailes (14), Buxted, East Sussex.



Trevor Brooking — unfair if he doesn't get a chance in Spain, says Caroline Mailes.

TERRACE TALK

Write to Terrace Talk, Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ. We'll pay £2 for each letter published and £10 for the 'Star Letter'.

GOLDEN GOOF

HOW the mighty have fallen! The fortunes of Spurs have taken a real dive judging by this Press cutting sent in by Andre Poole who lives in Capetown, South Africa.

LONDON.—Tottenham Hotspur, fourth in the English Fourth Division, will be aiming for a third successive victory over Manchester United this season when the league leaders travel to London tomorrow. Spurs won both their second-round League Cup matches against United 1-0 and will be

Commercial brakes!

I AM absolutely disgusted with the FA's stupid outlook on advertisements and sponsors.

I can't see why teams can't wear kit carrying their sponsor's name at televised matches.

What about the billboards and advertisements around the pitch?

I wish the FA would concern themselves with more important matters like hooliganism.

A. T. Higginson (12), Isleworth, Middlesex.

Rooting for Robson

I WAS annoyed with the 'Terrace Talk' remarks of Leslie Mackie, of Falkirk, who attacked Bobby Robson.

Bobby has boosted Ipswich since he joined the club. He's bought well, won the club the UEFA Cup and nearly got them the League Championship. Keep it up, Bobby. Geoffrey Lea, Liphook, Hants.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

OUTRAGED!

OUTRAGED at something concerning soccer? Then write and tell us about it.

But remember, you risk the wrath of 'Match' referee who may book you or worse still send you off!

Just to soften the blow the person who gets his marching orders wins £5 and those whose names are taken get £2.

Write to 'Outraged', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton Centre, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

No chance, England

Sent off! £5

I'M outraged and shocked by Kevin Keegan's comments in the November 28 issue of Match when he said he thought England could win the World Cup.

We had enough problems qualifying for the finals — let alone win them.

England don't have a chance against the likes of Brazil, Argentina and West Germany and the latter will win the World Cup.

England don't even know who they are grouped with yet.

By the way I am English. David Mackay (10), Cookham Village, Berks.

● WITH a name like Mackay and views like yours, you sound more like a Scotsman! England can certainly do without fans like you.

What do you expect Keegan to say — "There's no point in England going because we have no chance." You're sent off!

GIVE LEEDS TIME

I'M outraged at the article on Aidan Butterworth in the December 5 issue of Match which talked of Leeds' depressing season.

I don't suppose you know that Leeds have one of the best home records in the League.

You won't know either that it has been a bad season for United injury-wise.

Give them a couple of weeks so they can build up their full team again and I wouldn't be surprised to see them do well in the Cup.

Jonathan Ockleton, Woodborough, Nottingham. ● WITH all the transfer talk surrounding Elland Road, I'll be surprised if they've got a team in a couple of weeks. You're booked.

BIASED!

I'M outraged at the number of times Chelsea's 6-0 victory over Newcastle was shown on TV ... yet Chelsea got beaten 6-0 by Rotherham and it was not shown once. Television companies are biased against Geordies.

Alan Brown (13), Hexham-on-Tyne, Northumberland.

● I can't help it if Newcastle get beat every time they are on the box. You're booked.

Rushing to Spurs defence

EVERYBODY seems to slate Spurs' defence, but they have conceded less goals than Ipswich's so-called brilliant international defence this season.

And what's more, Graham Roberts, Steve Perryman and Paul Miller will all be in England's team in Spain next year.

Steven Palmer (13), Merley, Wimborne, Dorset.

● ROBERTS, Perryman, and Miller have about as much chance of playing in the World Cup Finals as Spurs have of winning the title!

Spurs' Championship chances would look a lot better if they had Mills and Co. at the back. You're booked.

Sunderland on the up

I'M outraged at people who say Sunderland will go down. Their position is unjustified because their defensive record away from home is not the worst.

Andrew Carter, Dewsbury. ● THEIR defensive record at home is and there's no excuse for that.

HAIL THE HAMMERS

WOULDN'T it be nice to see the League Championship trophy change hands once in a while?

I mean no disrespect to the team that seems to win it almost every season, Liverpool, because I admire them tremendously (being the Nottingham Forest supporter I am).

So I wouldn't complain if Phil Thompson was to hold the trophy aloft again this season.

Just look, though, at West Ham. Three Wembley appearances in as many years and all when they were in Division Two.

Add to that the exciting, entertaining football you come to expect from the 'Hammers' and you've got a side that have to be reckoned as title challengers.

I am 100 per cent sure that their exciting brand of football will pay instant dividends in their first season back in the big time.



Don't get me wrong, though — I'm not opposed to my favourite side Forest winning the title!

Indeed, in my heart, I wish the title would go to Forest, but wouldn't it be great for British football if West Ham were to be crowned champions?

Football needs clubs like West Ham.

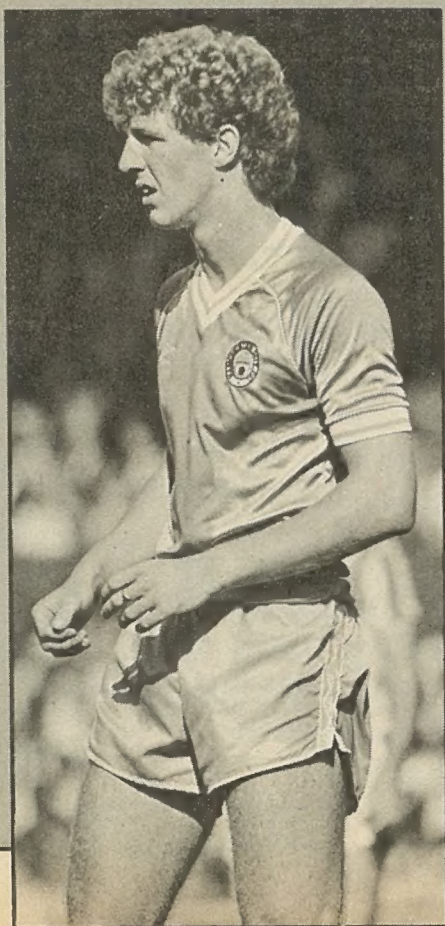
Paul Wheaton, Biddenden, Kent.

All at 'C'

I'VE composed a team of First Division players whose surnames all begin with the letter 'C' and I'm sure it would be highly successful. It is:

Clemence (Spurs), Caton (Manchester City), Cherry (Leeds), Craggs (Middlesbrough), Cowans (Villa), Coppell (Manchester United), Case (Brighton), Charles (Swansea), Cross (West Ham), Chiedozie (Notts County), Crooks (Spurs), Anthony Williams, Liss, Hants.

Right: Tommy Caton — he's in Anthony Williams' team of players whose surnames begin with the letter 'C'.



MERRY Christmas From Vayshire

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and we would like to know your ideas on suitable mail order products to advertise.

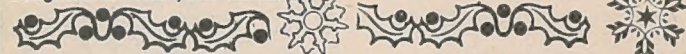
All you have to do is to imagine that you have £30 a month to spend and that you are going to spend £30 in January, £30 in February and every month of the year through to December. If you would then write down and tell us what three items you would like to buy each month with your £30, making a list of 36 items.

You can think of any products you like and if enough people are interested in a particular product we will do our best to obtain them and advertise them in Match Weekly at bargain prices. The winner of the competition will receive from us a £10 voucher each month to spend on any Vayshire product he or she chooses. Every letter we receive we will record and for all those people who have entered the competition we will allow a 10% discount on all purchases from Vayshire during 1982.

To start off with, we are having a smashing sale throughout January and if you can dig out all your old copies of Match Weekly and find one of our products that you would like to buy, then we will give you an additional 10% discount providing you send us the cut out advertisement with the date of the Match Weekly written on the back of the advert.

The winner of the competition will be the one who we judge as providing the most varied and interesting list of products which are suitable for mail order.

If you have any other interesting comments on how we can improve our service to Match Weekly readers during 1982 then we will be delighted to hear your views.



When you send in your entry will you complete the following sentence
I think I would buy more products by mail order if,

The 3 runners up will receive a soccer watch of their own choice.

Send your list of 36 items to:-

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Competition 36

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SOME soccer magazines won't be printing next week because of the festive holiday period, but at Match Weekly it's business as usual.

We've made sure OUR readers won't be disappointed. Our January 2 issue will be on sale around Wednesday, December 30.

Make sure of your copy next week and EVERY week by placing a regular order at your local paper shop.

NEXT WEEK

Welcome to 1982 with Match Weekly's special New Year issue. Just look at some of the super features it has in store for you.

IN COLOUR HIGHLIGHTS OF '81

A colourful look back over the year's soccer milestones. Plus Trevor Aylott, Ray Kennedy, Alan Brazil, Mick Ferguson. And Ian Redford's Golden Goal that clinched the Scottish League Cup.

WIN A V-NECK SWEATER

Complete with your favourite club's motif — 13 must be won. PLUS — win one of 10 Match Weekly All-Star 1982 Annuals — FREE!

Read the TOP team in football.
GRAEME SOUNESS on Liverpool's World Club Championship clash with Flamengo of Brazil.
GLENN HODDLE on Spurs' FA Cup chances.
ALAN BALL on his British record move to Arsenal.
STEVE COPPELL on life at Old Trafford. Men with something to say write for Match!

JURGEN ROBER

Forest's new Archie Gemmill?

MATCH FACTS

The UP-TO-DATE results service that's recognised as the best available by Britain's top soccer statisticians.

PLUS

FA Cup Third Round preview, Stratton on Saturday, Terrace Talk, Match Chat, Third and Fourth Division Scene and lots, lots more.

ARNOLD Muhren talks to Match Weekly about his international future in the wake of Holland's failure to reach Spain and declares...

Right: Arnold Muhren — not ready to retire from the international scene.

'I'M NOT FINISHED YET'

ARNOLD Muhren is far from ready to stand back and abandon his role as a double Dutchman.

In the wake of their World Cup disaster, Holland are said to be preparing to ditch the old guard in favour of young blood.

But Arnold, the 30-year-old Ipswich midfielder aristocrat, does not accept that he's worn his international boots for the last time.

He says: "There are eight or nine older players in the side. Surely they won't get rid of us all?"

"You've got to have at least three or four experienced players in any side. Holland tried a team of youngsters against Eire and it didn't come off."

What is certain is that if the worst happens Arnold would not consider it a crushing blow.

"I've always said that the most important thing is to play well for your club and treat international honours as a bonus," he says.

"I've won only six caps so I can't say I would miss it."

The irony of the situation is that Arnold opted out of the international arena three years ago.

Shattered at his omission from the 1978 World Cup squad, he went into self-imposed exile.

"The coach at the time told me I would definitely be going to Argentina. I cancelled a family holiday and explained the situation as best as I could to my wife.

"But when the squad of 22 was announced I wasn't included and nobody told me why.

"I changed my mind about playing for Holland again when a new manager took

over and he said he would give me a fair chance.

"Unfortunately Holland haven't qualified for Spain and I think the manager has got to take a lot of the blame.

"Normally you would expect to use about 15 or 16 players in the qualifying games. We must have tried about 50 or 60! Players never got used to each other and the damage was done in the away games at Belgium and Eire which we lost 2-1."

Incredibly Holland, runners-up in the past two World Cups, will be sitting at home while teams like Kuwait battle it out in Spain.

Arnold explains: "Everything goes round in circles. We've only a couple of players left from the great side and you can't replace people like Cruyff, Neeskens and Rep overnight.

"But if we are feeling sorry for ourselves, what about Eire? They went even closer to qualifying."

The Portman Road dressing room bulges with England hopefuls, but their team mate fears they will be disappointed next summer.

"I'm going for Brazil to win it. I've watched them a couple of times and they look a great side. West Germany and Argentina will also do well.

"Ron Greenwood, I feel, has still to find the right blend. And I think England have got to show more patience.

"They have fallen down in the past by being too positive. Other national sides are much more defensive away from home and rely on counter-attacks.

"But England attack so much they often get caught out on the break."



MATCH WINNERS

THE three lucky winners of our Club Shop competition which appeared in the December 5 issue of Match are Brian Campbell, Wirral, Merseyside; Philip Carter, St Albans, Herts; and Simon Kimber, Tonbridge, Kent.

Each wins a cheque for £25 to spend at a football club shop.

The four lucky winners of the 'What Happened Next' competition which appeared in the December 5 issue are: Alan Martin, Beccles, Suffolk; Brian Guy, Raglan Street, London; John Beadnell, York; and Scott Struthers, Uddingston, Glasgow.

Each wins a super Kodak instant picture camera.

Christmas crossword solution

ACROSS: 1. clear off the line; 8. Queen of the South; 15. Curran(t); 16. Harris; 17. Stewart; 19. Whistle; 21. cup-tied; 22. May; 23. skipper; 24. Ernie; 25. Ayre (anagram); 26. shrimp; 27. Rogers; 28. Seed; 33. Richards; 34. Powell; 35. replay; 36. Molineux; 39. open; 41. Blades; 42. Norman; 44. Doog; 48. Esser (dessert); 50. seventh; 52. Gil (agility); 53. Amateur; 54. Platini (Latin); 55. outside (-right); 56. Omonia; 57. Direct; 59. red, white and blue; 60. Sheffield United.

DOWN: 1. Cec; 2. European Cup; 3. Reading; 4. Tranmere; 5. early; 6. Ipswich; 7. East Stirlingshire; 8. Queen's Park Rangers; 9. Evans; 10. Nottingham; 11. Howard; 12. Spiders (Queen's Park); 13. Upton; 14. Heeley; 18. Empire; 20. Edwards; 21. Cherry; 29. ever-present; 30. London Road (Peterborough); 31. Douglas; 32. Exeter; 37. gloves; 38. goal-line; 40. Norwich; 43. Athlone; 45. station; 46. keeper; 47. assist; 49. stand; 51. hotel; 52. Geoff (Hurst); 58. Ted (United).

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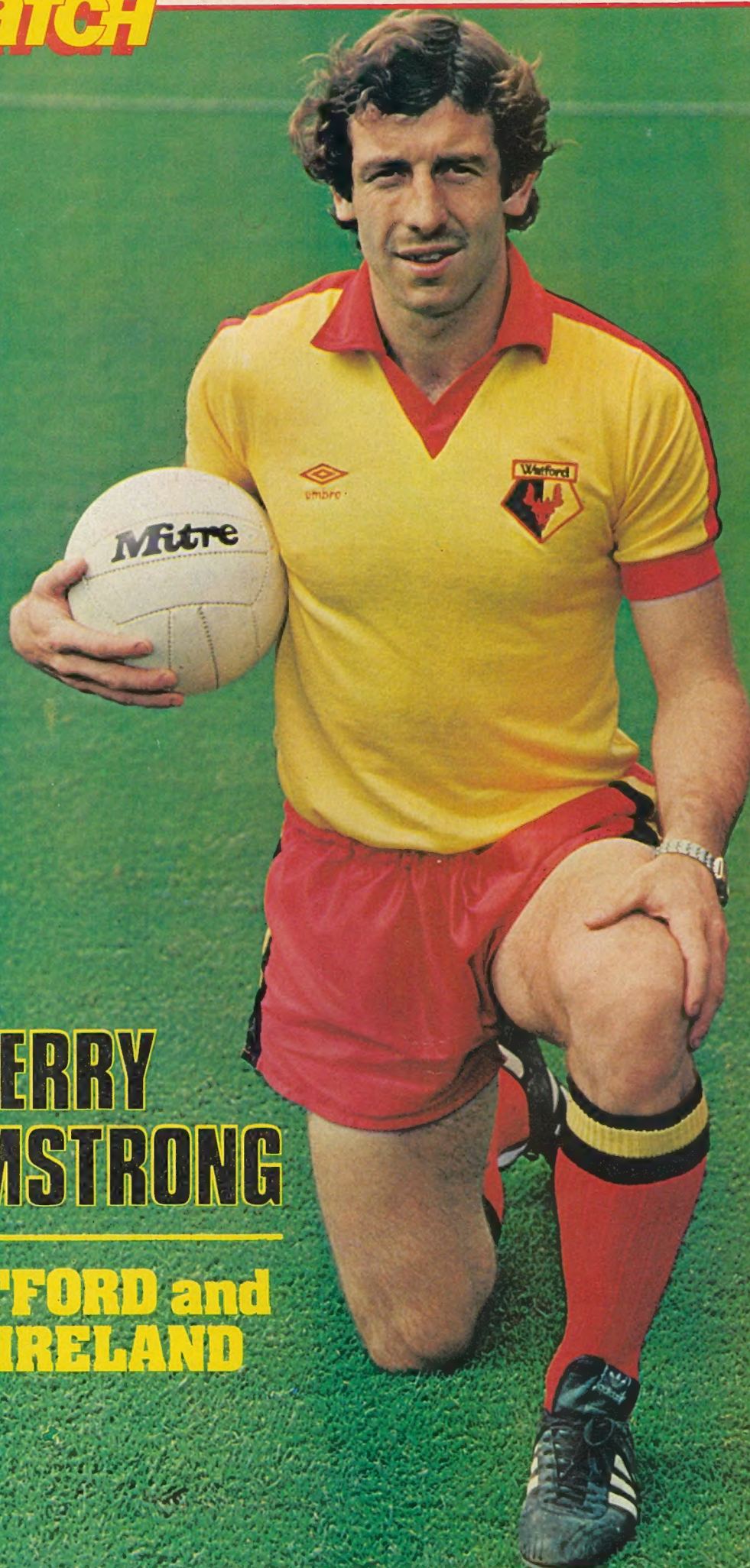
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